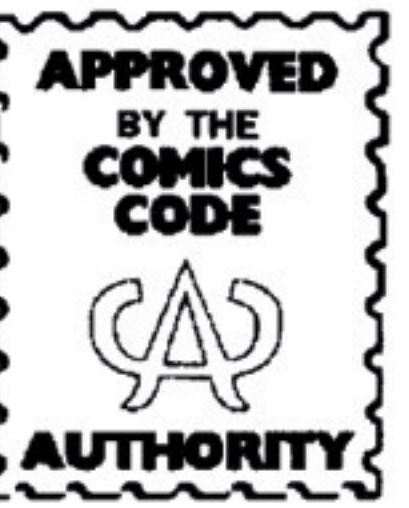


Archie  
ADVENTURE  
SERIES



SEGA®

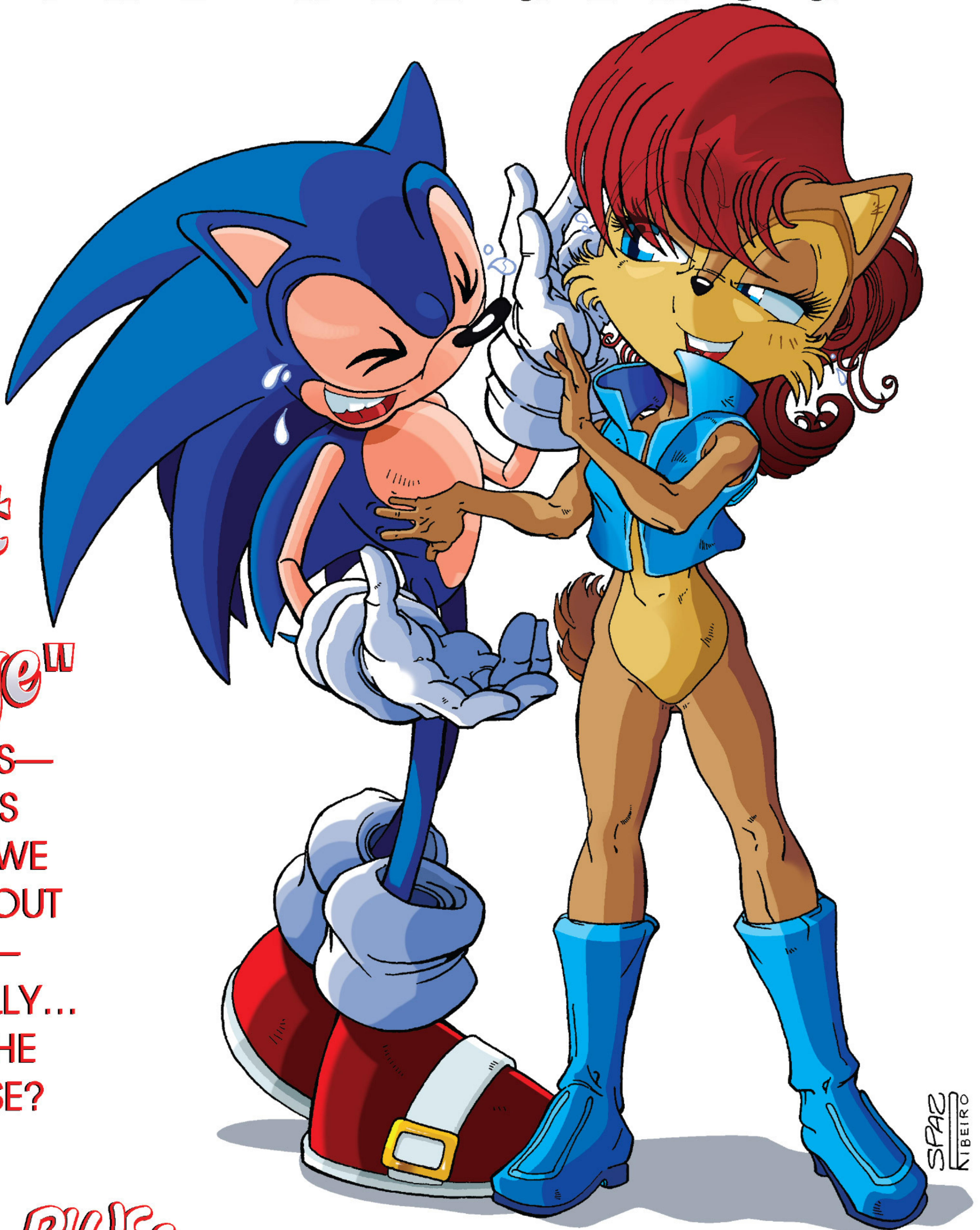
# SONIC™



## THE HEDGEHOG

TORN  
BETWEEN  
TWO  
HOTTIES:  
"Heart  
Held  
Hostage"

CONCLUDES—  
BUT WHO'S  
HEART ARE WE  
TALKING ABOUT  
ANYWAY—  
PRINCESS SALLY...  
OR MINA THE  
MONGOOSE?



SPAR  
KIBEIRO

PLUS:

RAD RED  
MIGHT BE DEAD  
BUT IT DOESN'T  
STOP HIM FROM  
GETTING HIS  
OWN STORY—  
IT'S THE THIRD  
INSTALLMENT OF  
"AFTERLIFE"



WHO OR WHAT IS  
THE LAST ROBIAN?  
SONIC FINDS  
OUT BUT IT  
DOESN'T MAKE  
HIM HAPPY







SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 123, July, 2003. Published every 4 weeks, twice in April by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$2.19 in the U.S.; \$2.59 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$28.47 for 13 issues; \$33.67 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2000. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 2001-2003. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada



KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER  
PRESENT

**SONIC**  
THE HEDGEHOG

IN

# "Heart Held Hostage" part two

CONDOR TOMAS  
INKER

JASON JENSEN  
COLORIST

JEFF POWELL  
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE  
EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THERE HE IS--

**SONIC**  
THE HEDGEHOG

--MY  
DREAM  
HUNK--

MINA?!

--AND HE DOESN'T  
EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL  
ABOUT HIM.





ARE YOU **CRAZY?** WHAT ARE YOU **DOING** HERE?

I-I CAME TO **HELP** YOU.

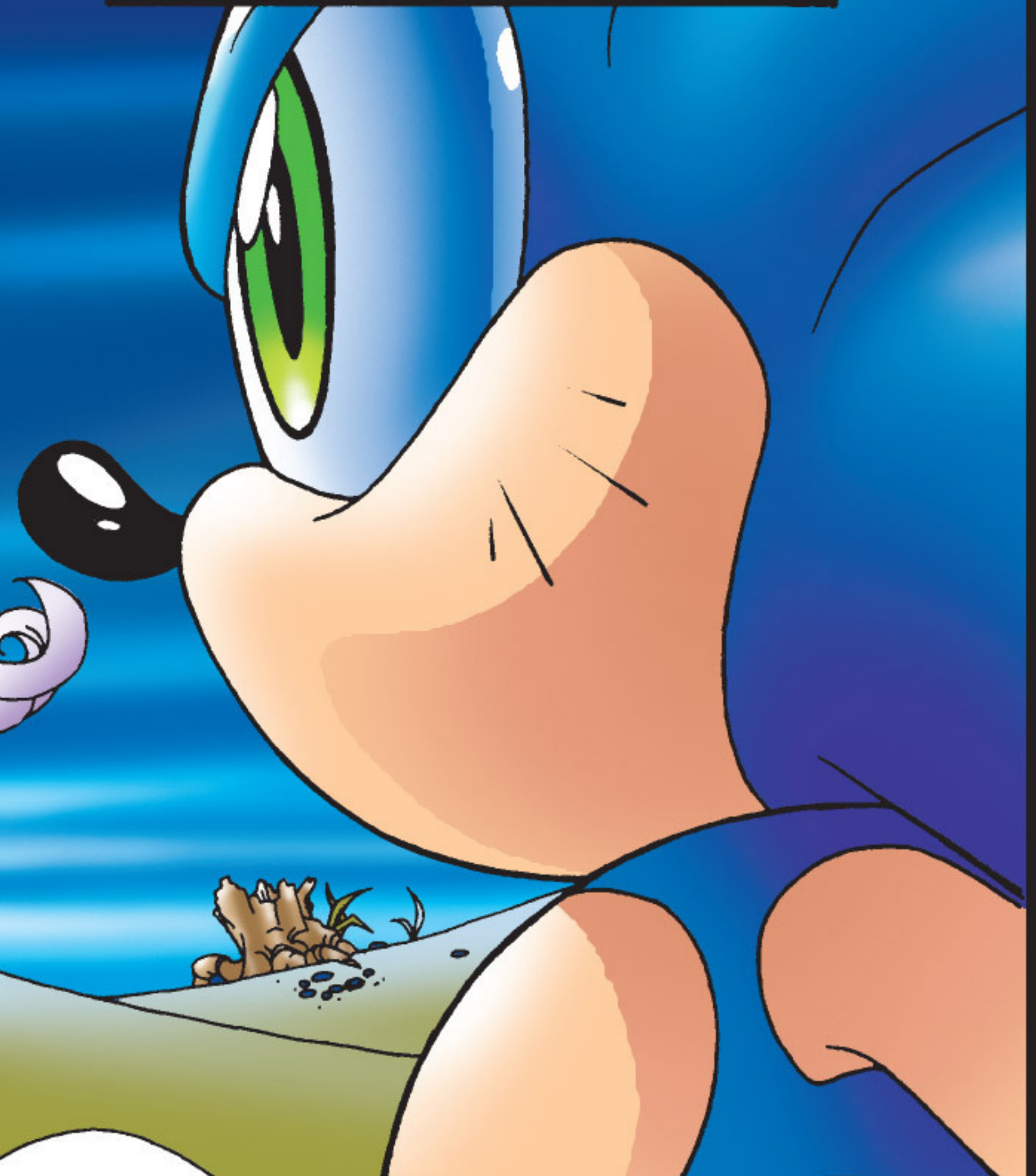


WHERE ARE THE **FREEDOM** FIGHTERS?



I **DUNNO**. I GUESS I MUST'VE LEFT THEM BACK AT **CASTLE ACORN**.

I JUST USED MY **MONGOOSE** SPEED TO TAKE OFF **AFTER** YOU. I REALLY WASN'T **THINKING**.



I THINK WE **BOTH** JUICED WITHOUT **THINKING**.

WE **SURE** DO HAVE A LOT IN **COMMON**. DID YOU EVER **NOTICE** THAT?



OH. GUESS I WAS **FOLLOWING** YOUR **LEAD**.

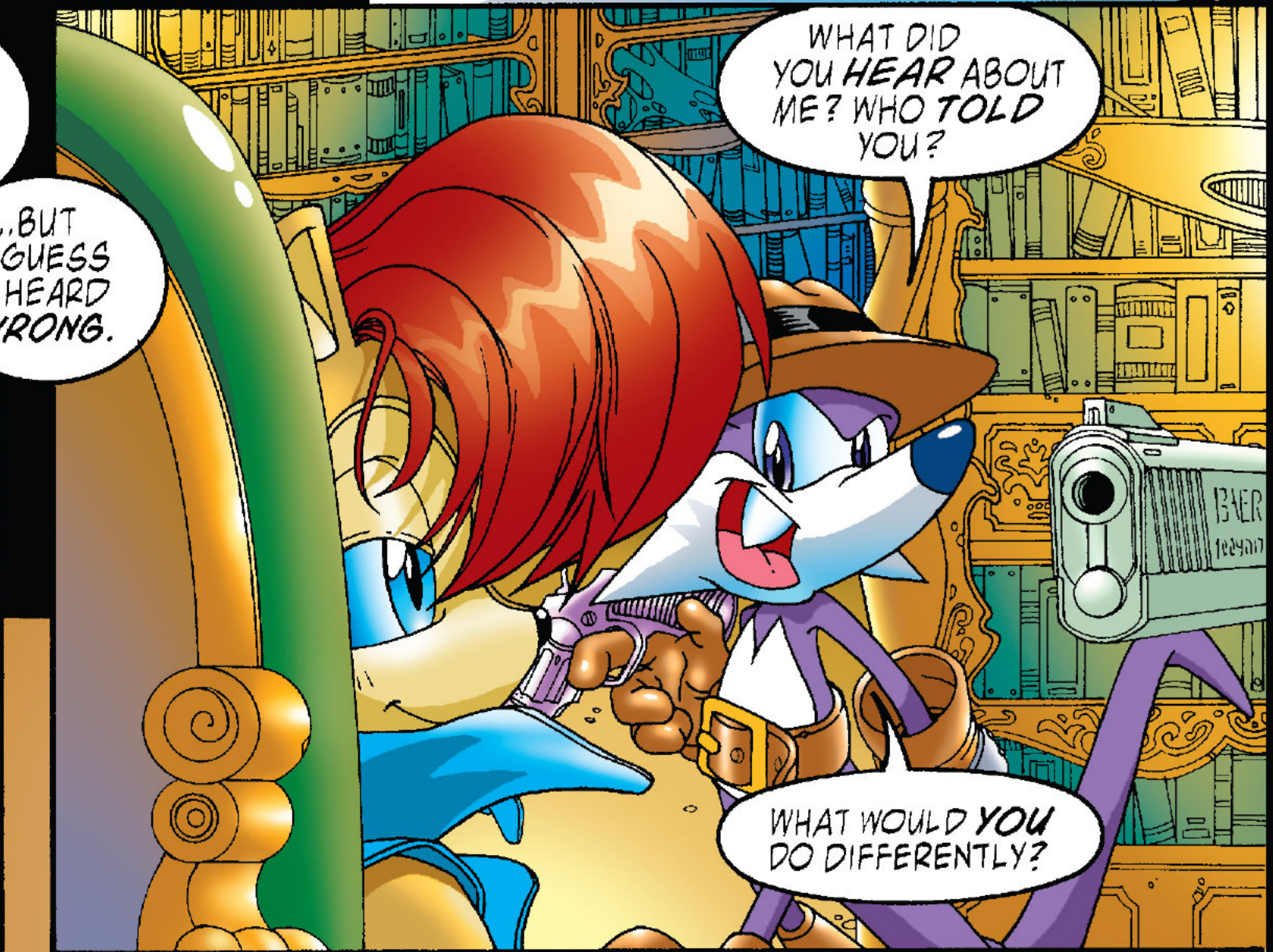
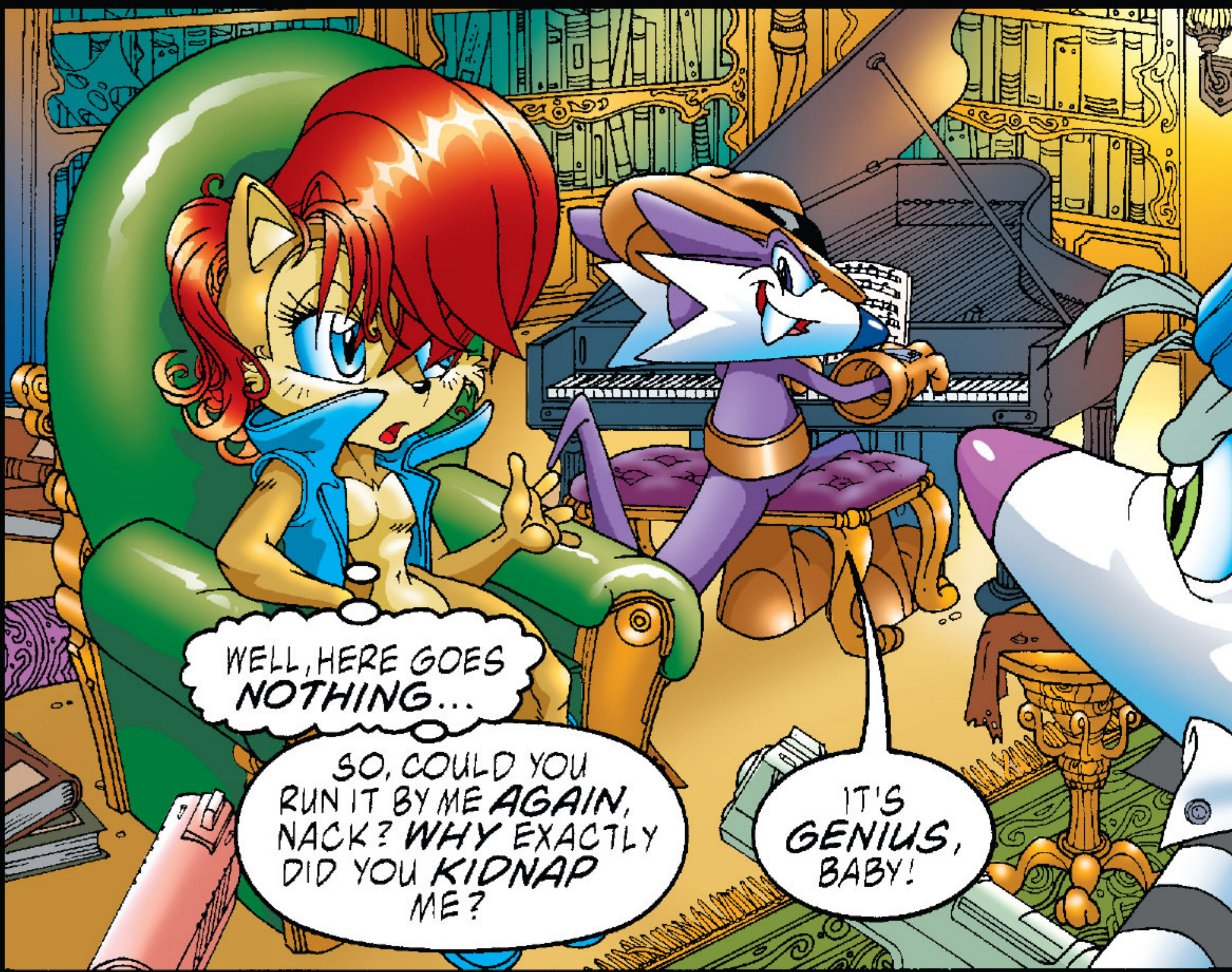
OH, **SURE**. Y'KNOW WHAT **ELSE** I NOTICED? WE **DON'T** HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF **BACK-UP**.



MY **BAD**. SO, IT'S UP TO **US** TO **SAVE** **PRINCESS SALLY** FROM **NACK** THE **WEASEL** AND HIS **BOYS**?

WELL, AS WE USED TO SAY **BACK** IN THE DAY, "LET'S **DO** IT TO IT!"









WHY SO SURPRISED?  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S  
LIKE HAVING ALL OF YOUR  
**WEALTH** CONTROLLED BY  
YOUR PARENTS?

IT'S **AWFUL!**  
THIS WOULD BE MY  
**CHANCE** TO GET BACK  
AT THEM.



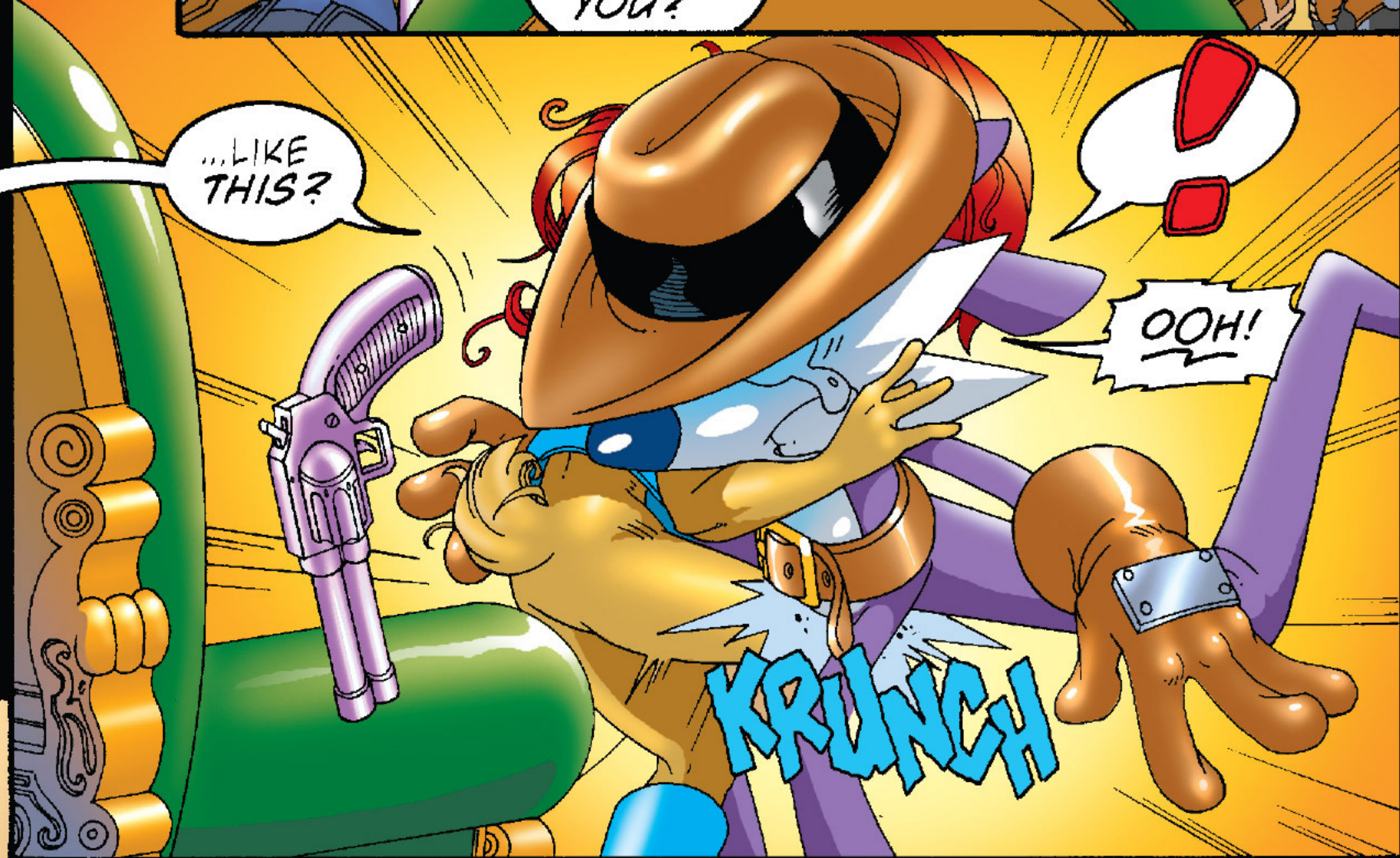
WHOA. PRINCESS, I  
DIDN'T **KNOW** YOU HAD  
ALL THIS **TEENAGE**  
**RESENTMENT** TOWARD  
THE 'RENTS.

WELL,  
WOULDN'T  
YOU?



OF **COURSE**. I FEEL  
YOUR **PAIN...**

**REALLY?**  
DOES IT FEEL  
ANYTHING...



...LIKE  
**THIS?**

OOH!

**KRUNCH**

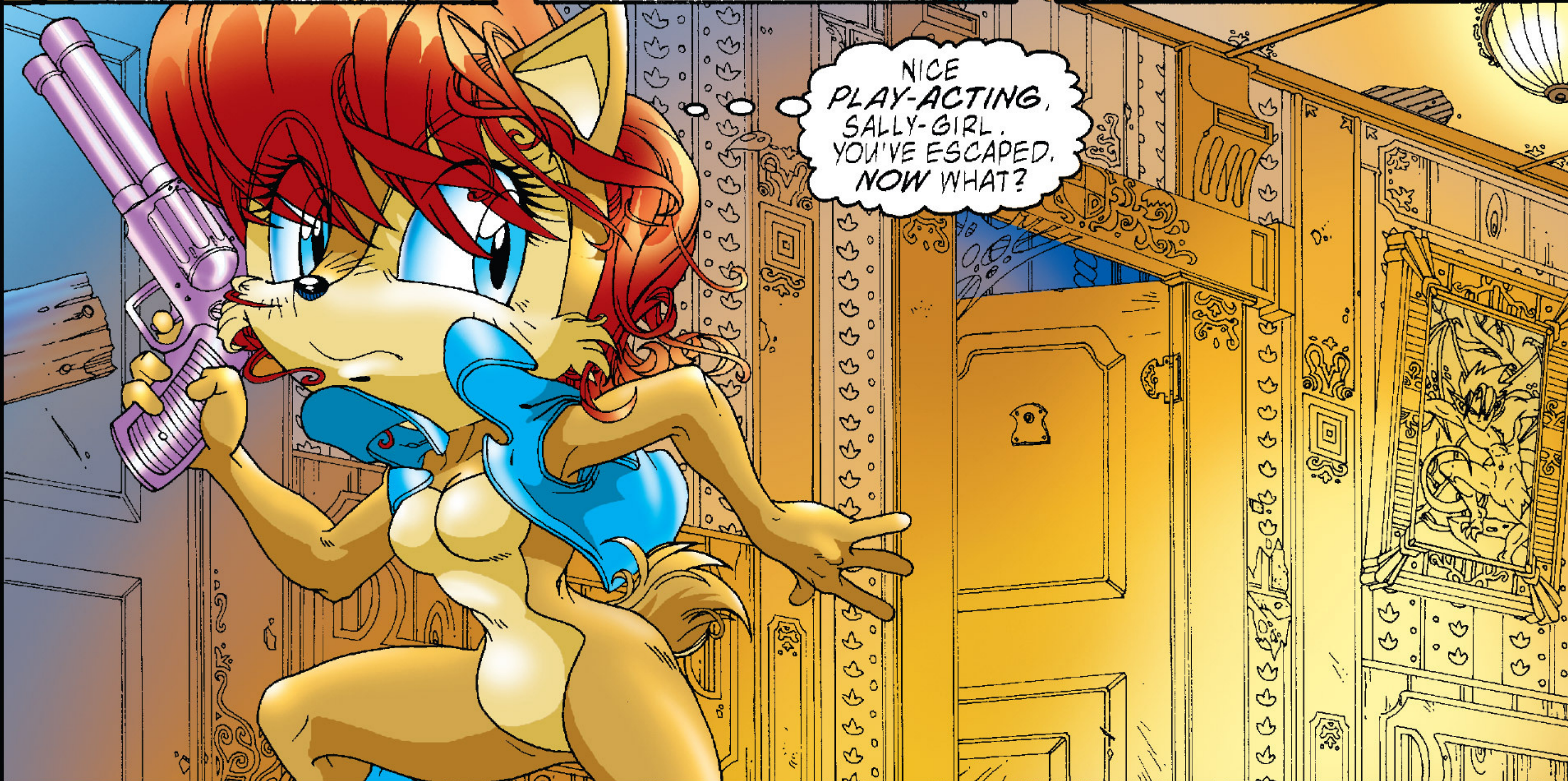
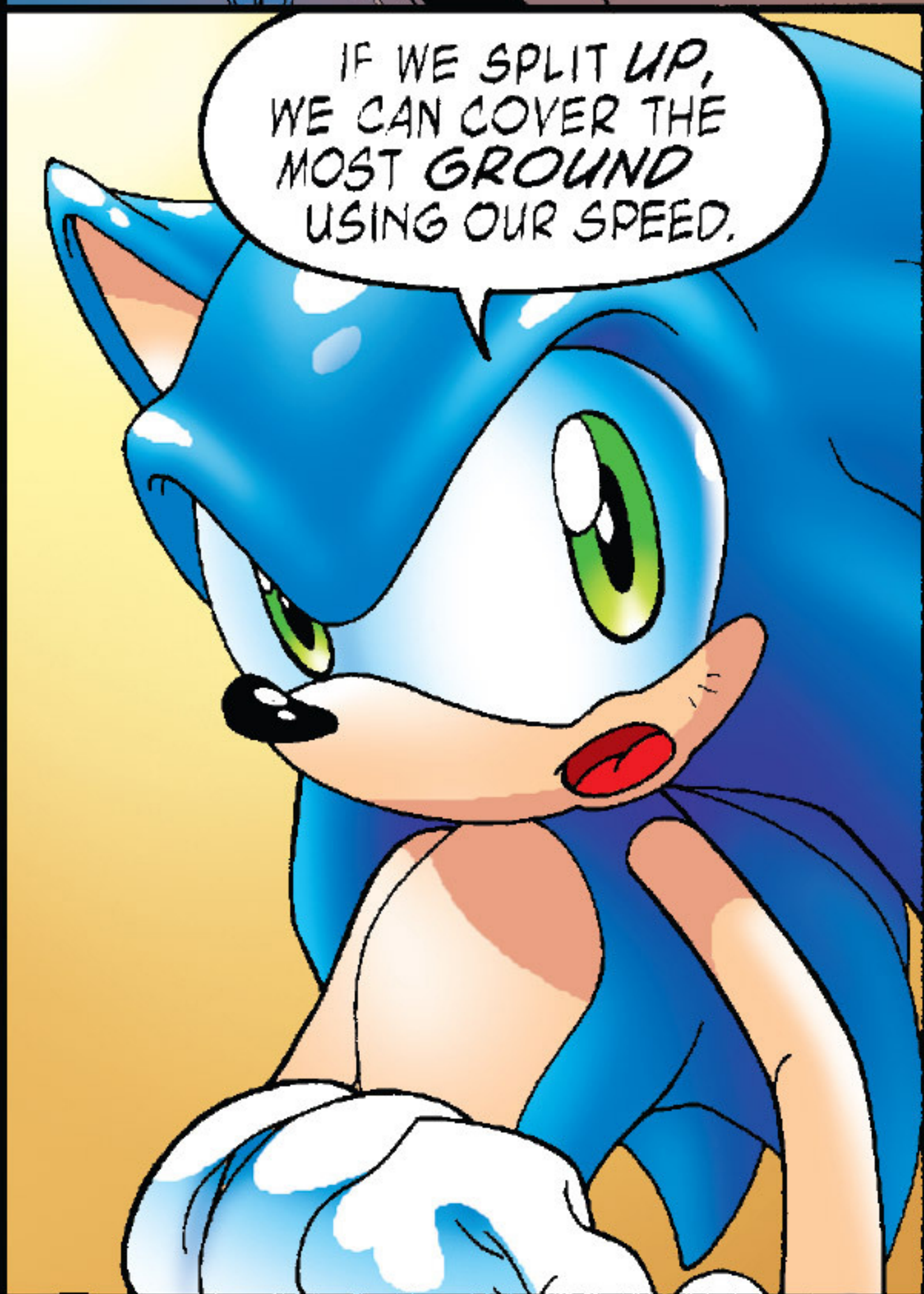
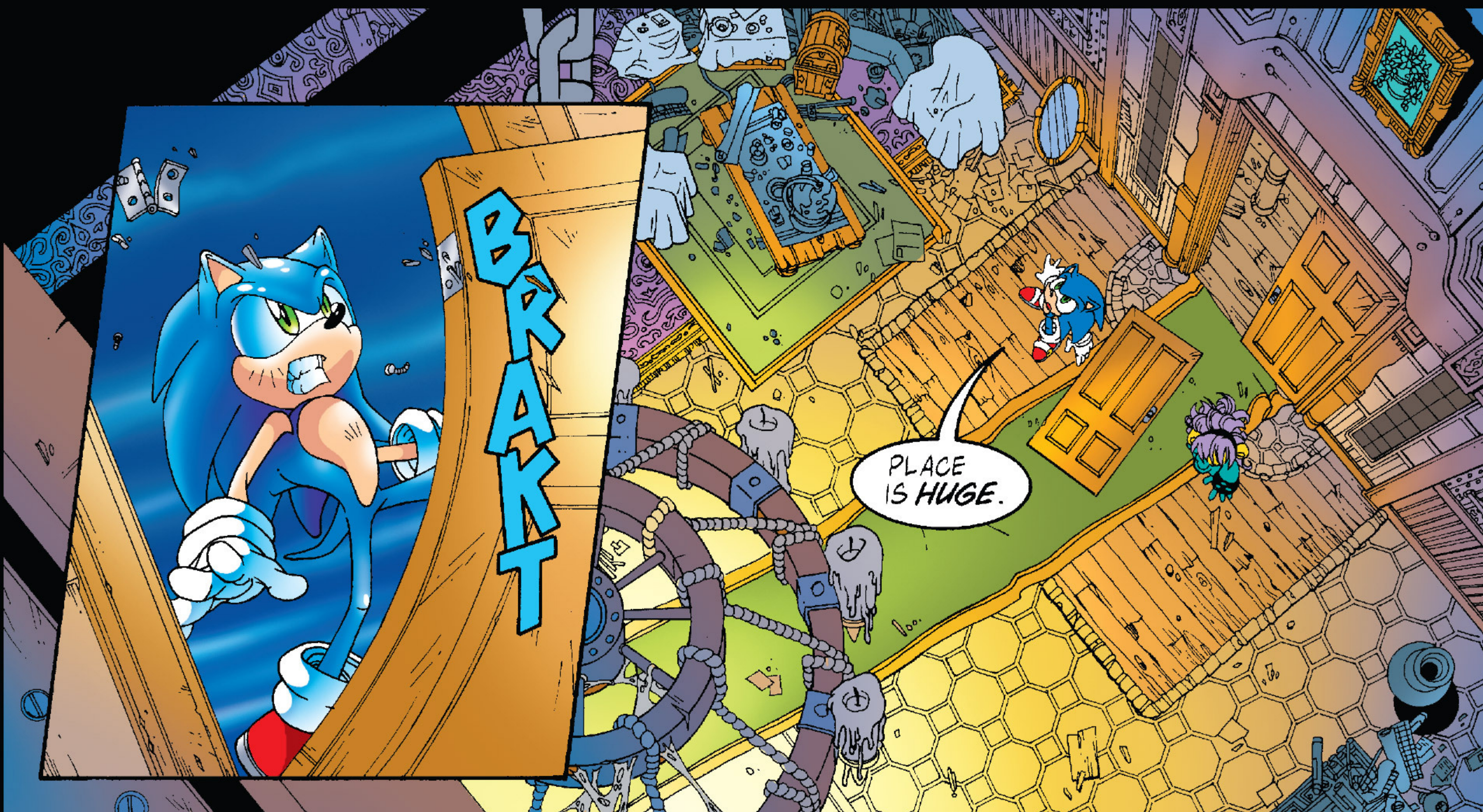


SIT THIS  
ONE **OUT**, TOUGH  
GUY.

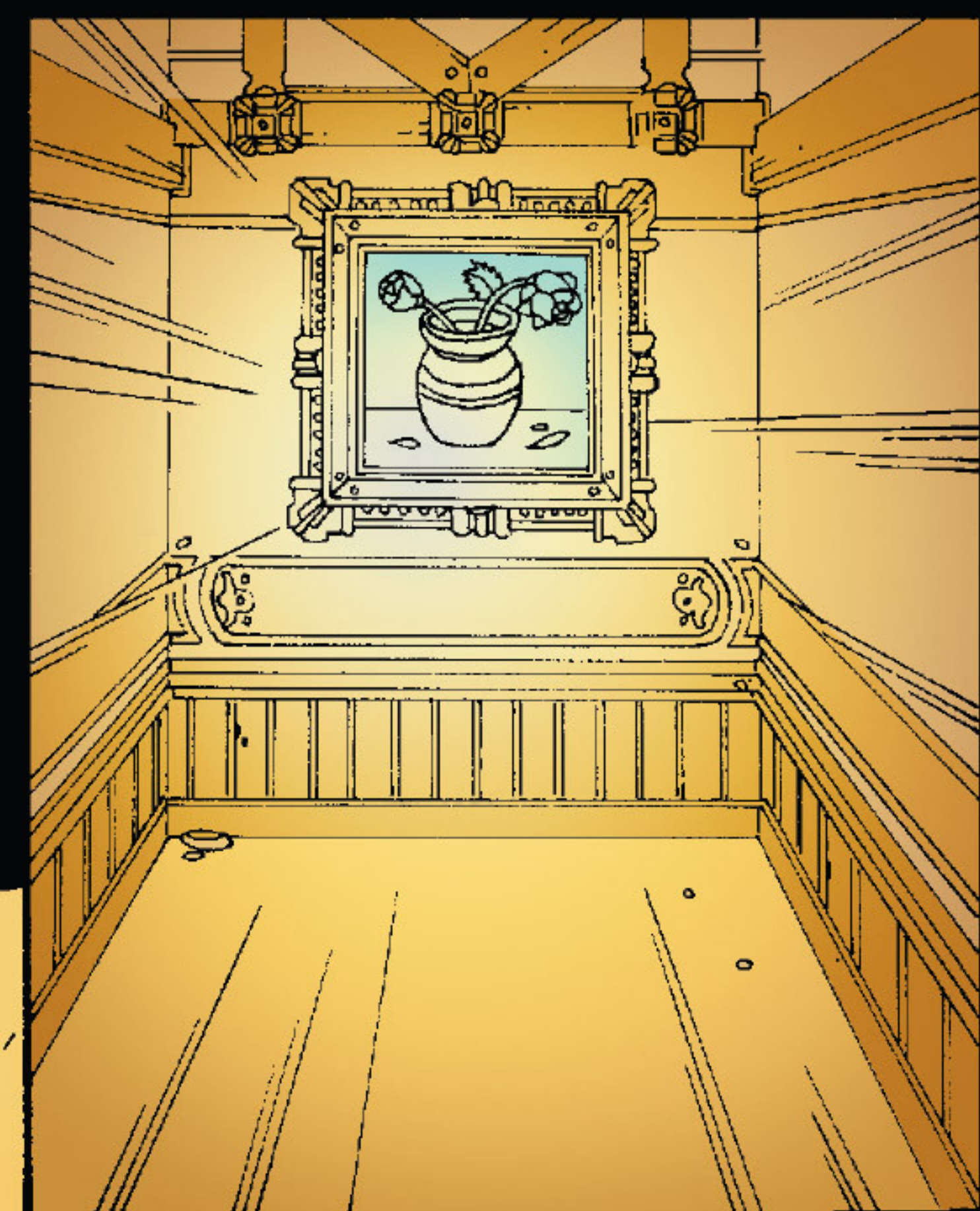
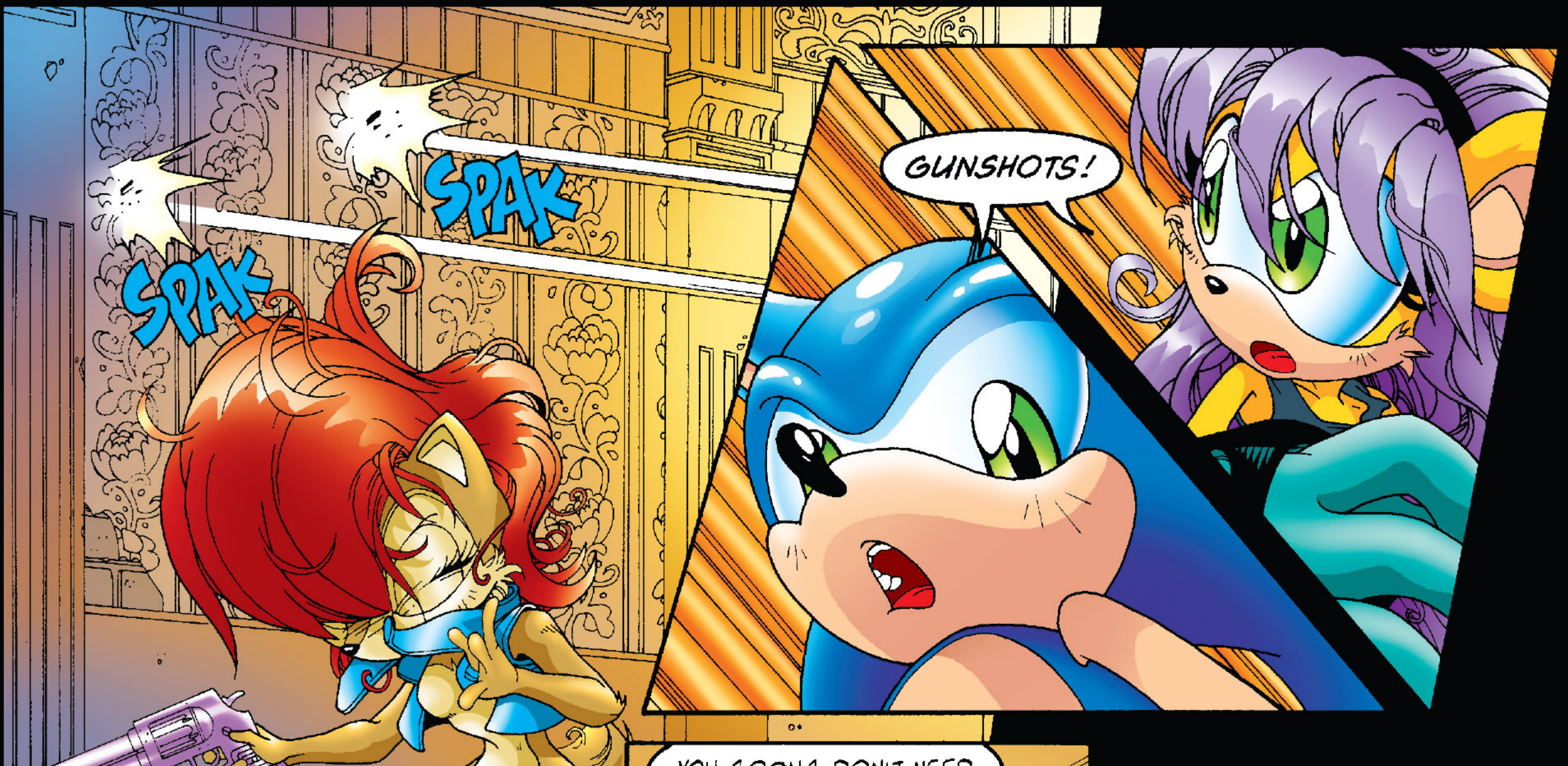


I KNOW IT'S  
**DIFFICULT**, BUT  
DON'T BE **DUMB**.  
NOW, PUT  
DOWN THOSE  
**WEAPONS** NICE  
AND SLOW.

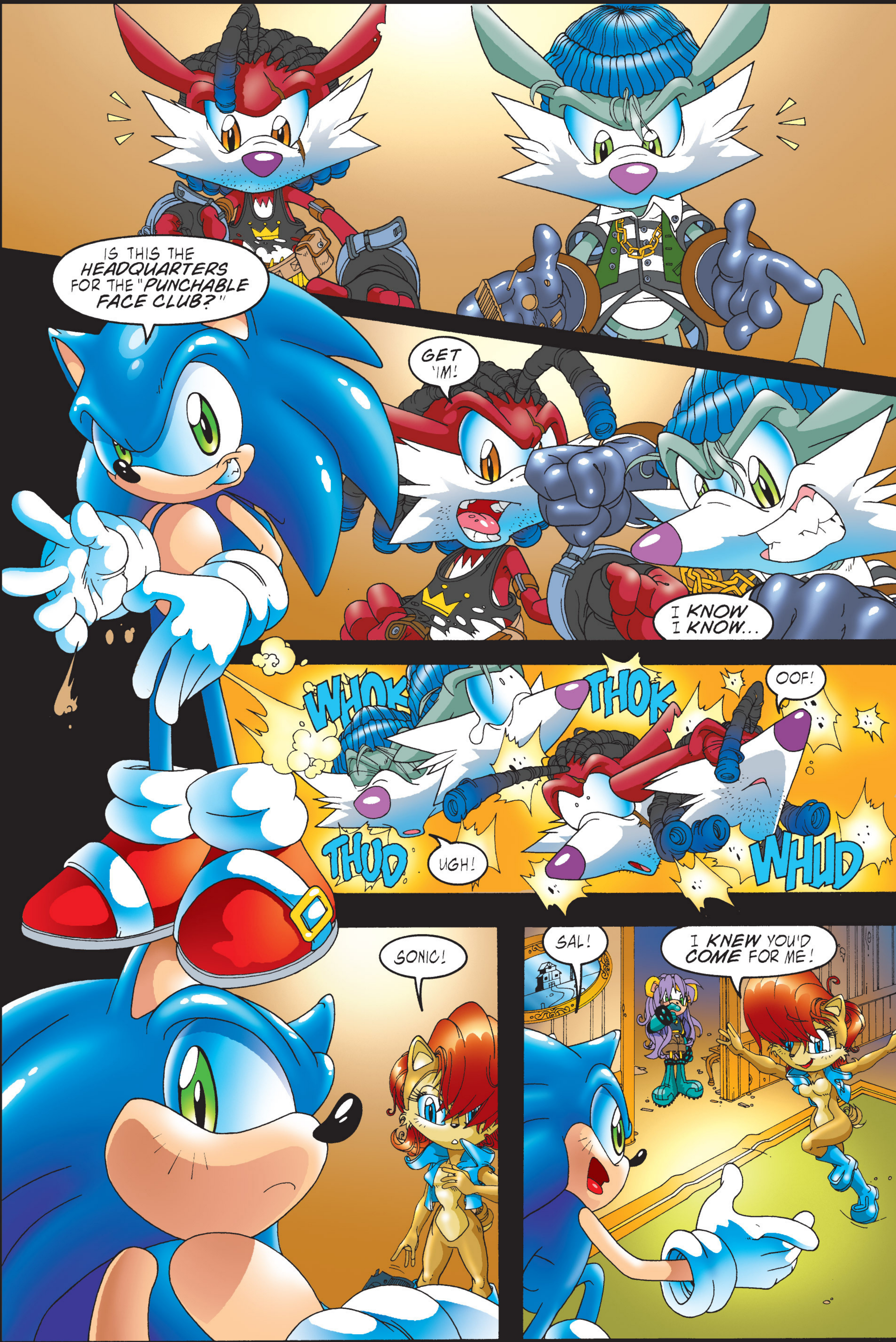












IS THIS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE "PUNCHABLE FACE CLUB?"

GET 'IM!

I KNOW I KNOW...

WHOK

THOK

THUD

UGH!

OOF!

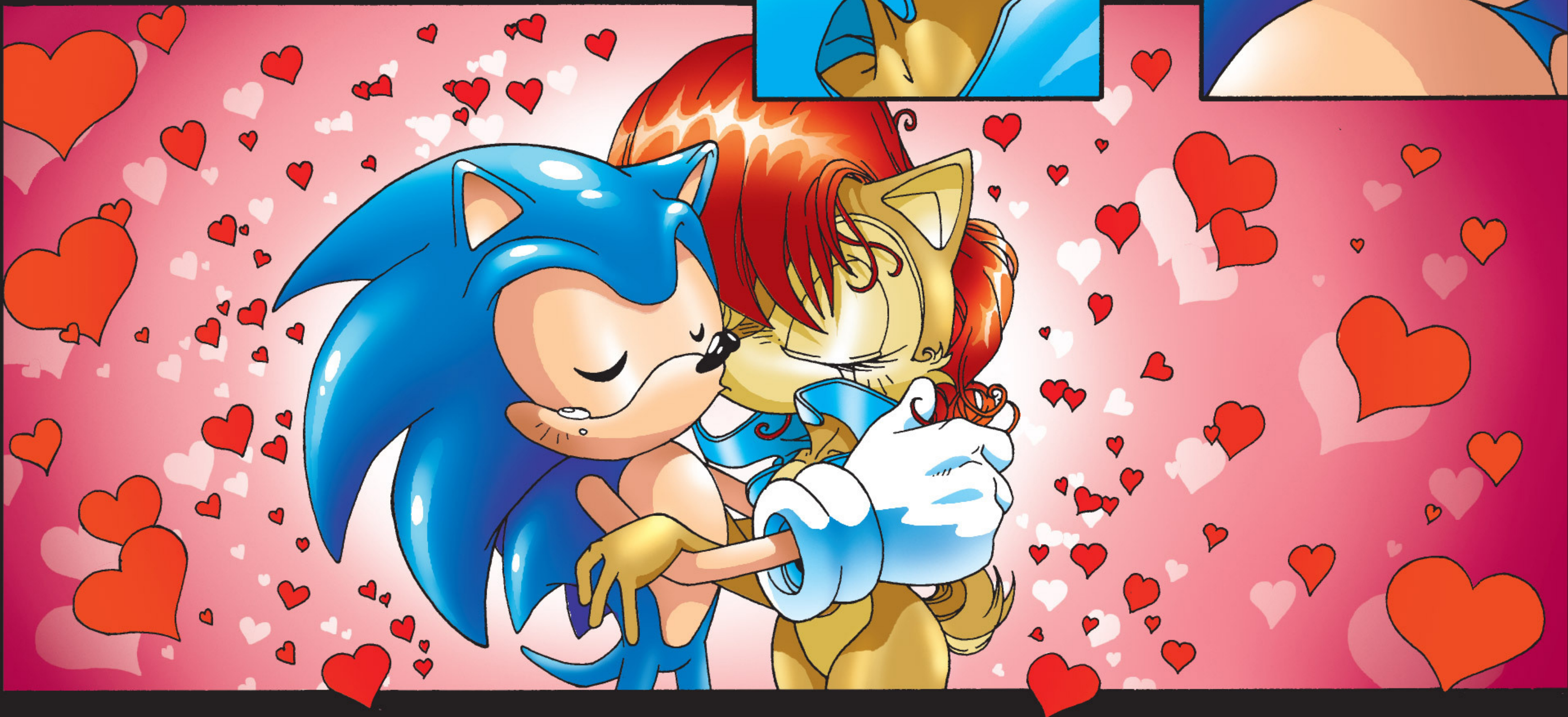
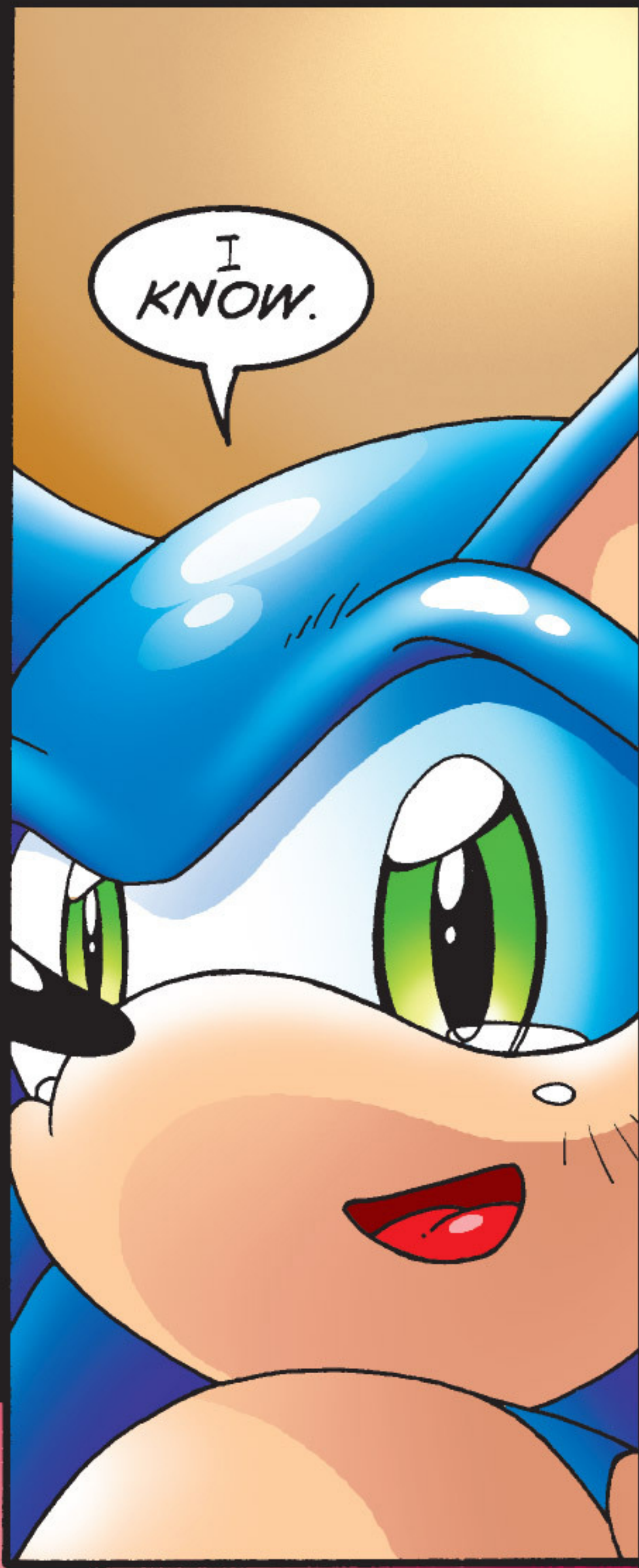
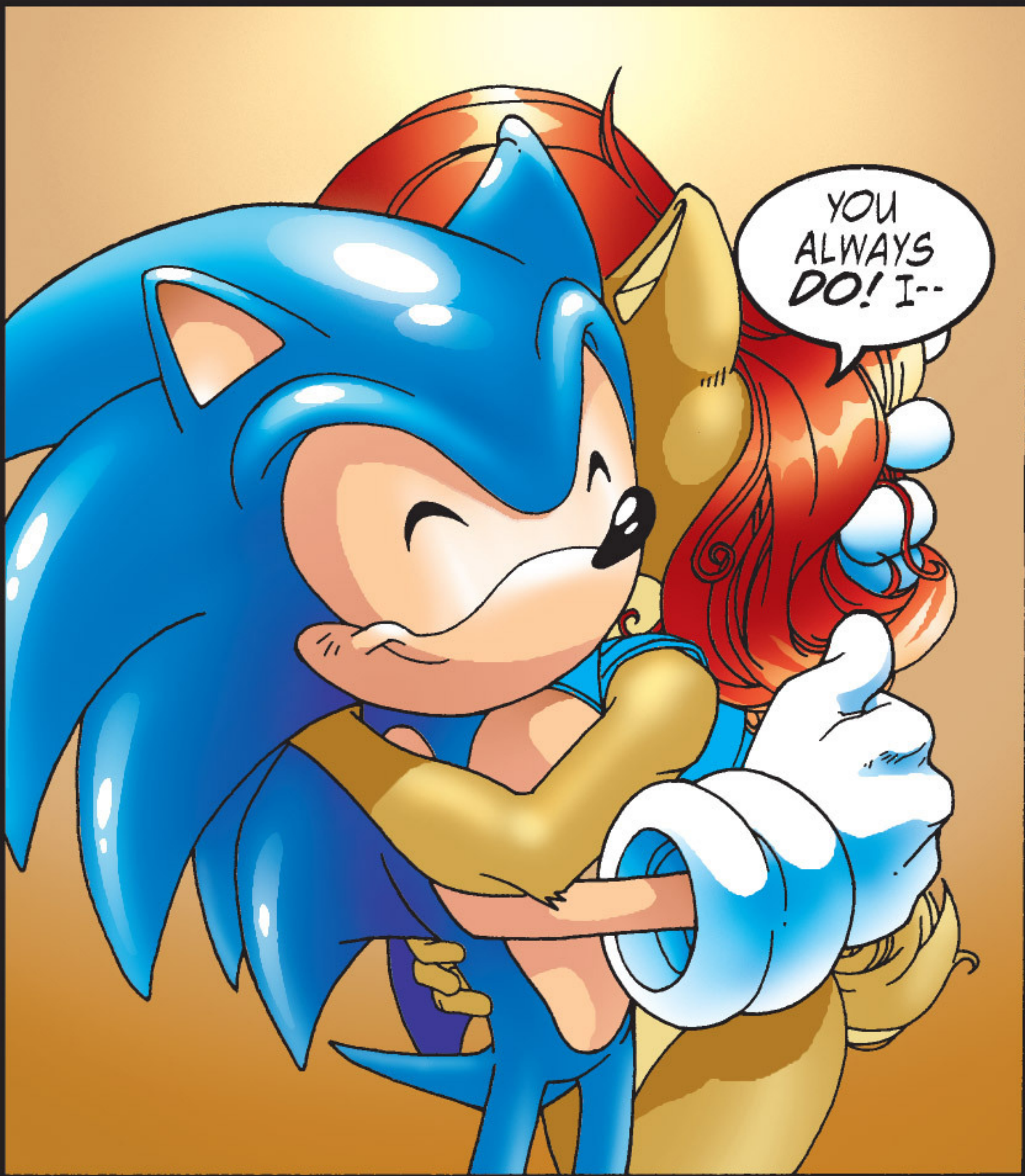
WHUD

SONIC!

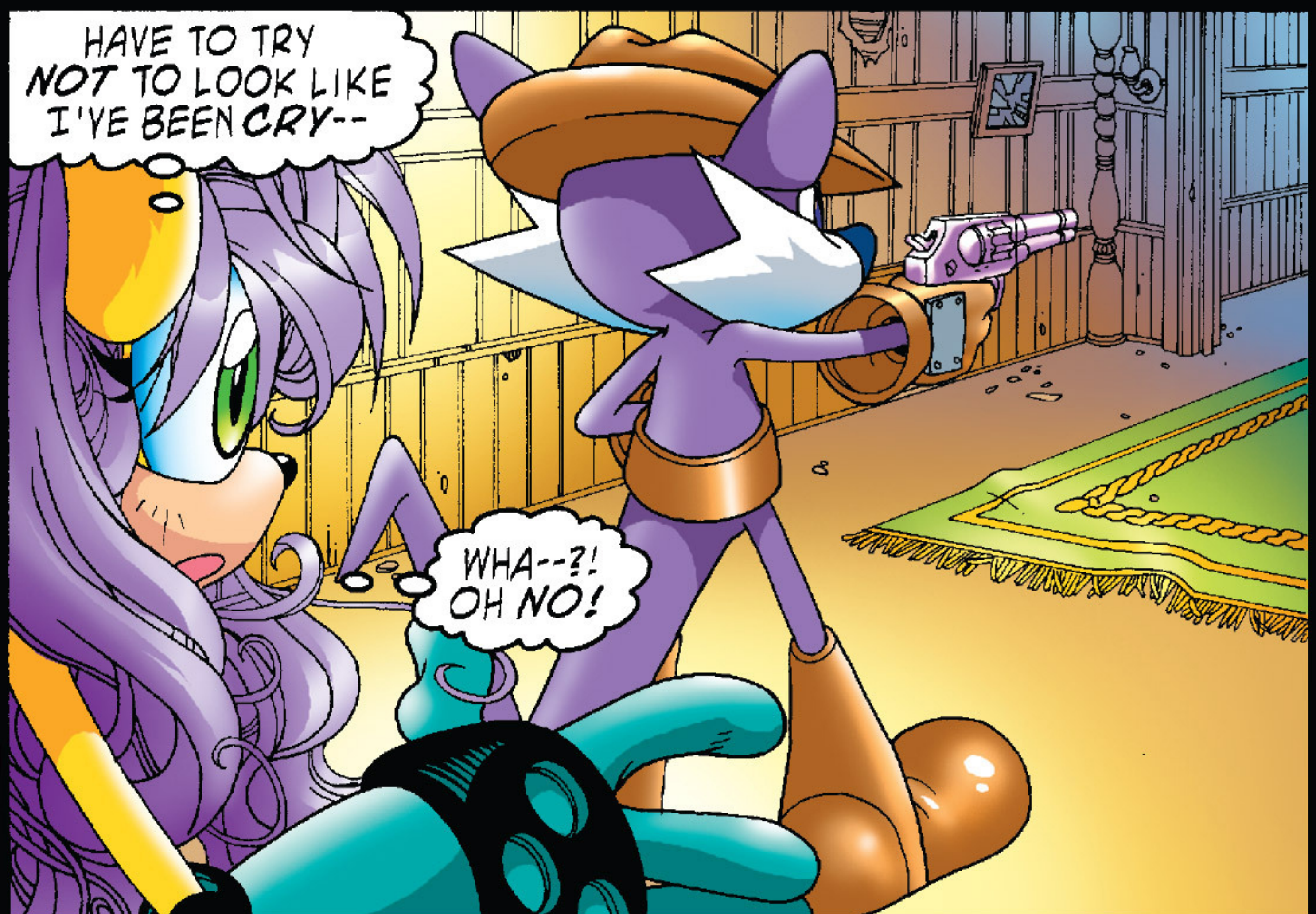
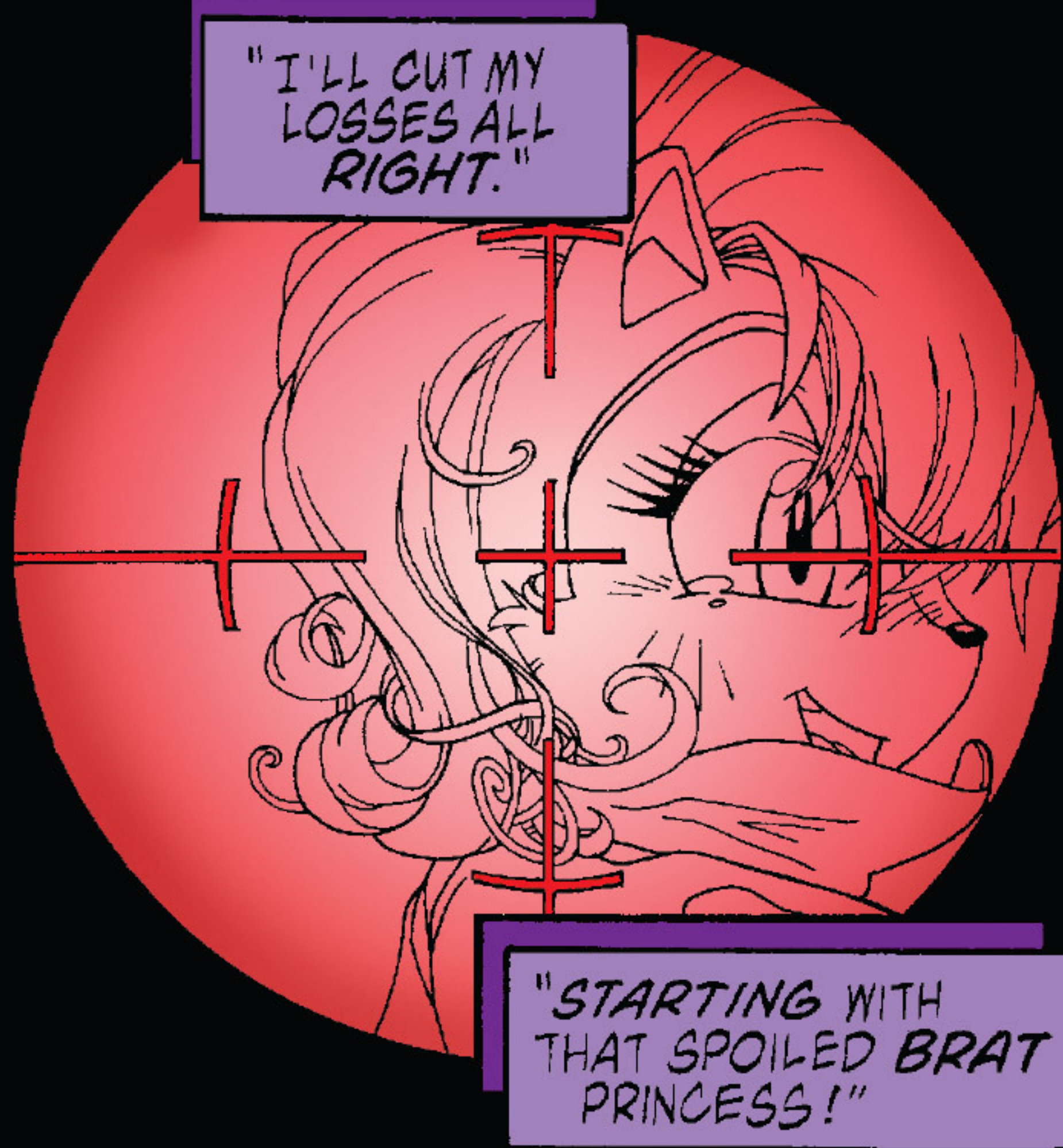
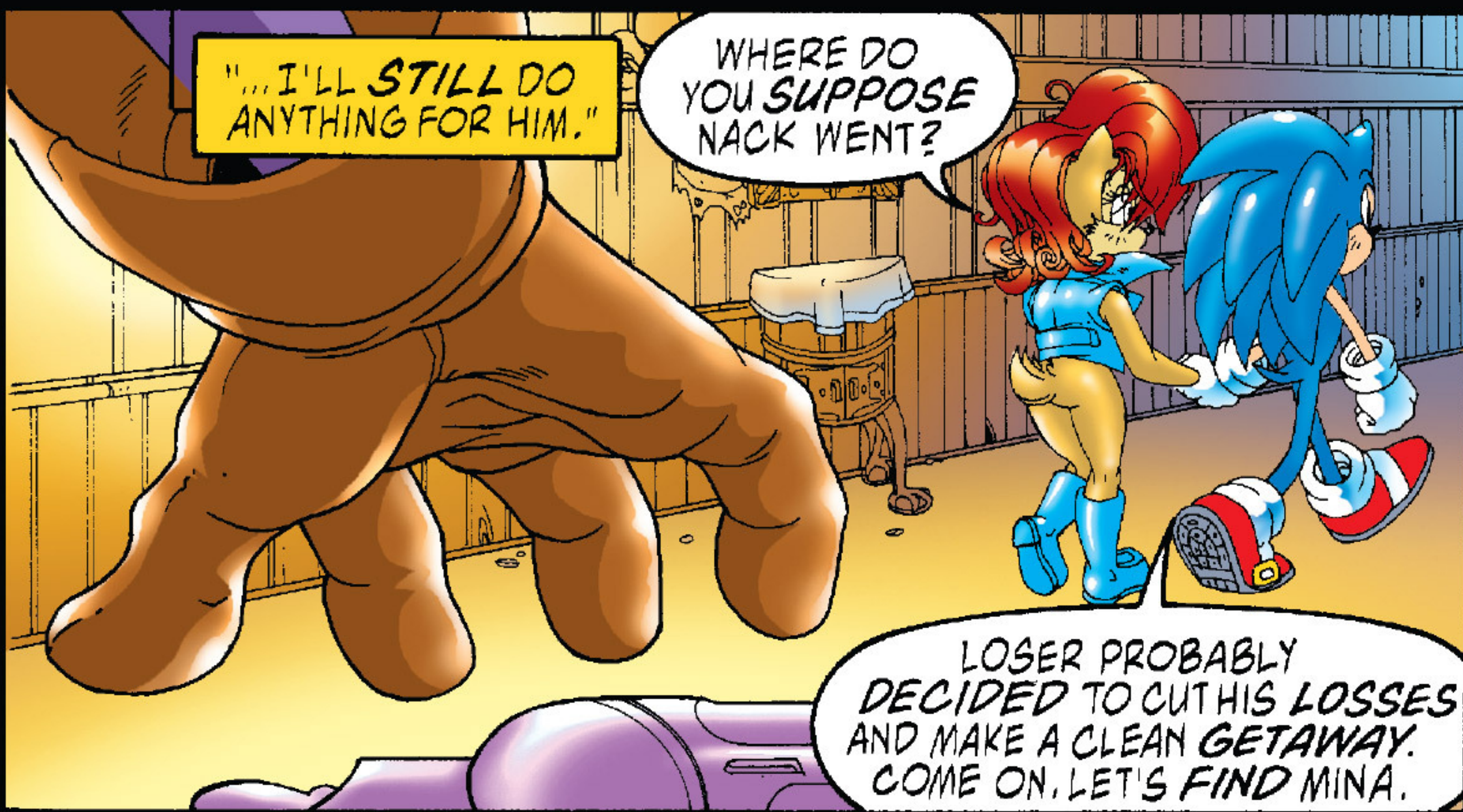
SAL!

I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME!





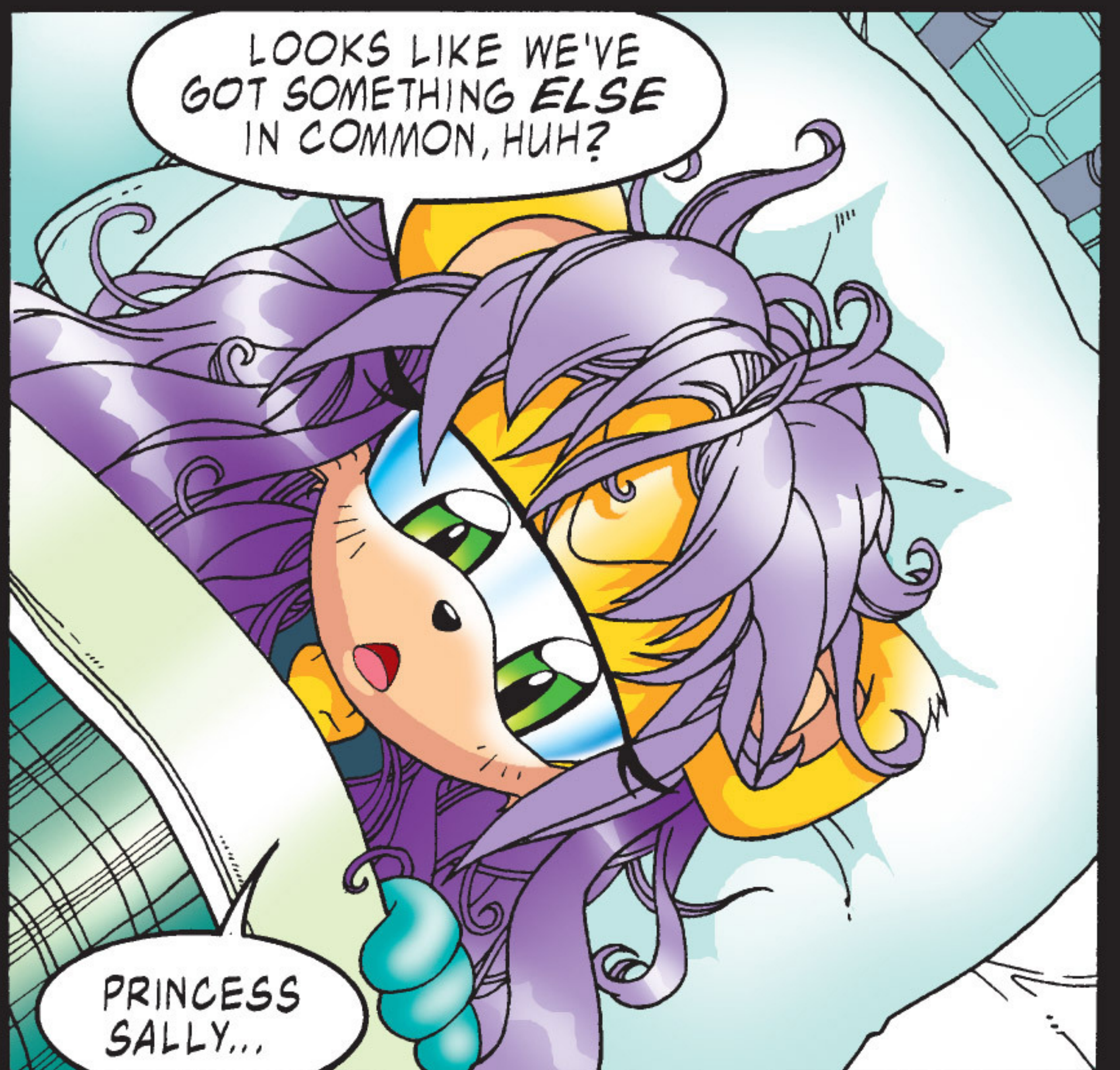
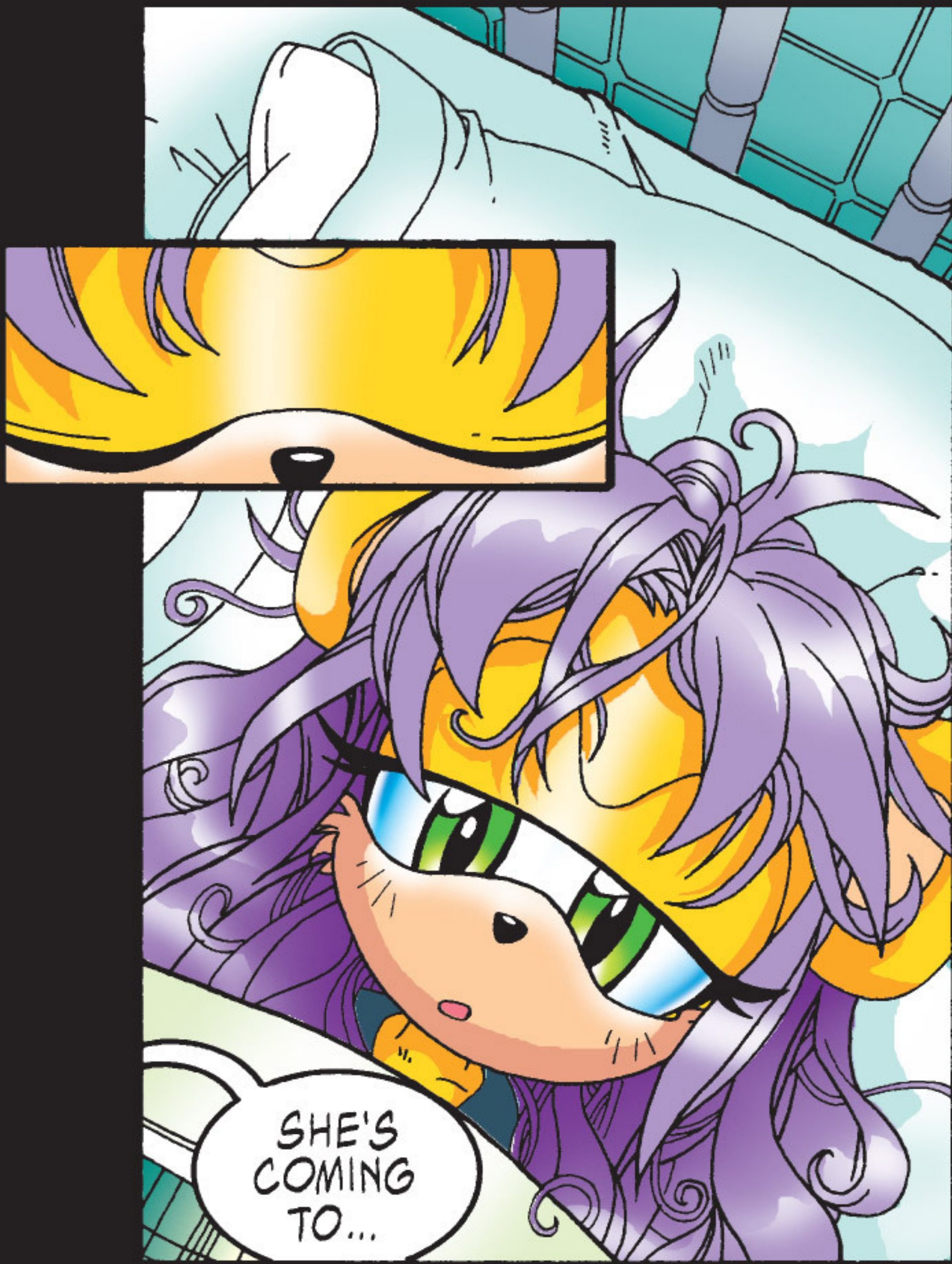












In Memory of  
Minerva Ifill  
1912-2002



# **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA**

# **AFTERLIFE**

## *Part Three*

IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS  
COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--  
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS  
ART MAWHINNEY-PENCILS  
VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER  
J. JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR  
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF  
SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!

HAS DISCOVERED A  
NEW REALITY, AND FINDS  
HIMSELF RELIVING OLD  
EXPERIENCES...

DON'T YOU  
WISH IT COULD  
**ALWAYS**  
BE THIS WAY,  
KNUCKLES?

YEAH--

--BUT LIKE  
**THAT'S** GONNA  
HAPPEN!

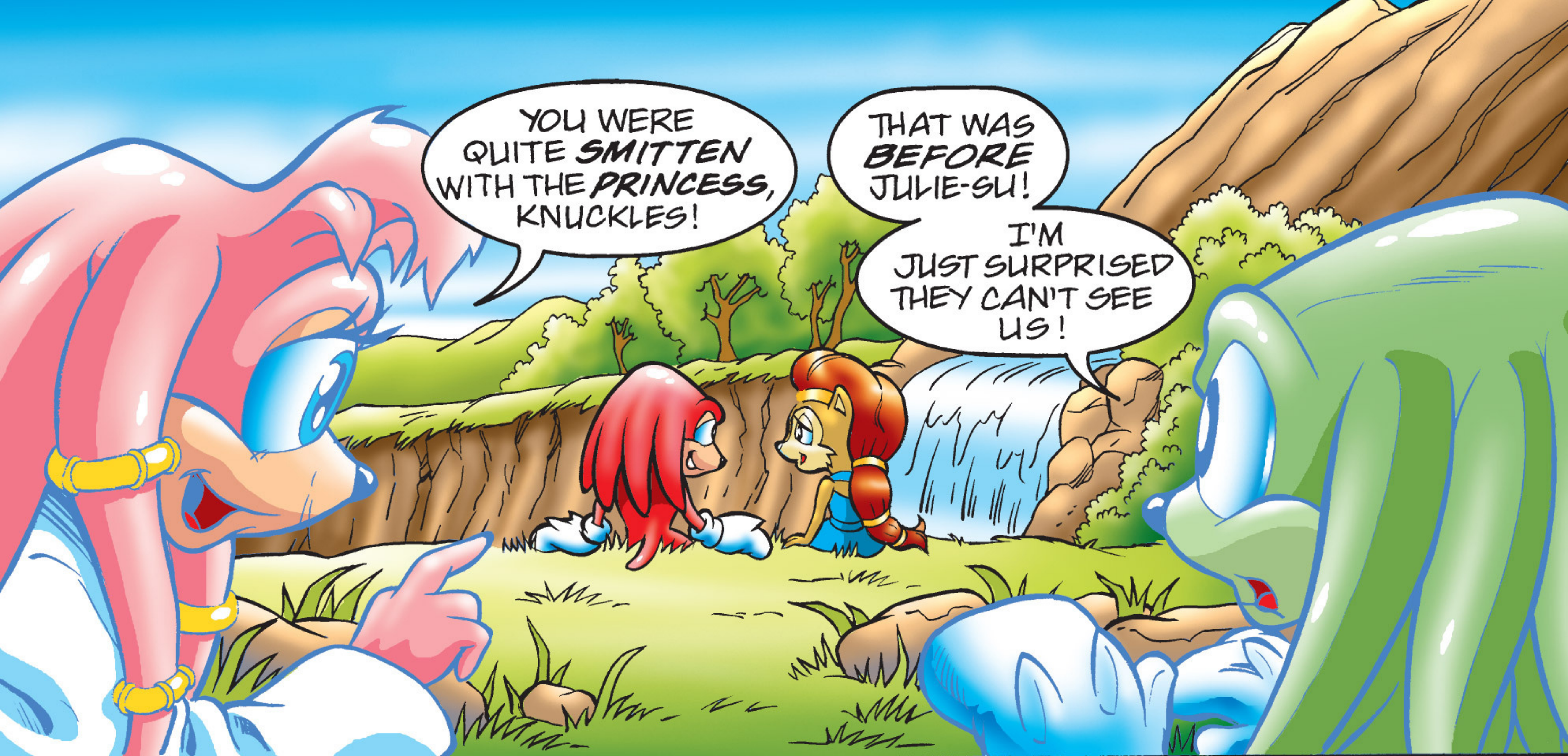
BESIDES, YOU GOT **LOTS**  
OF **FRIENDS** BACK  
**HOME**, SALLY!

YOU'RE  
PROBABLY  
**NEVER**  
ALONE!

I SPEND  
MORE TIME  
LEARNING TO  
BE A  
**PRINCESS**  
THAN I DO  
WITH MY  
FRIENDS!

THAT'S  
NO FUN!





YOU WERE QUITE **SMITTEN** WITH THE **PRINCESS**, KNUCKLES!

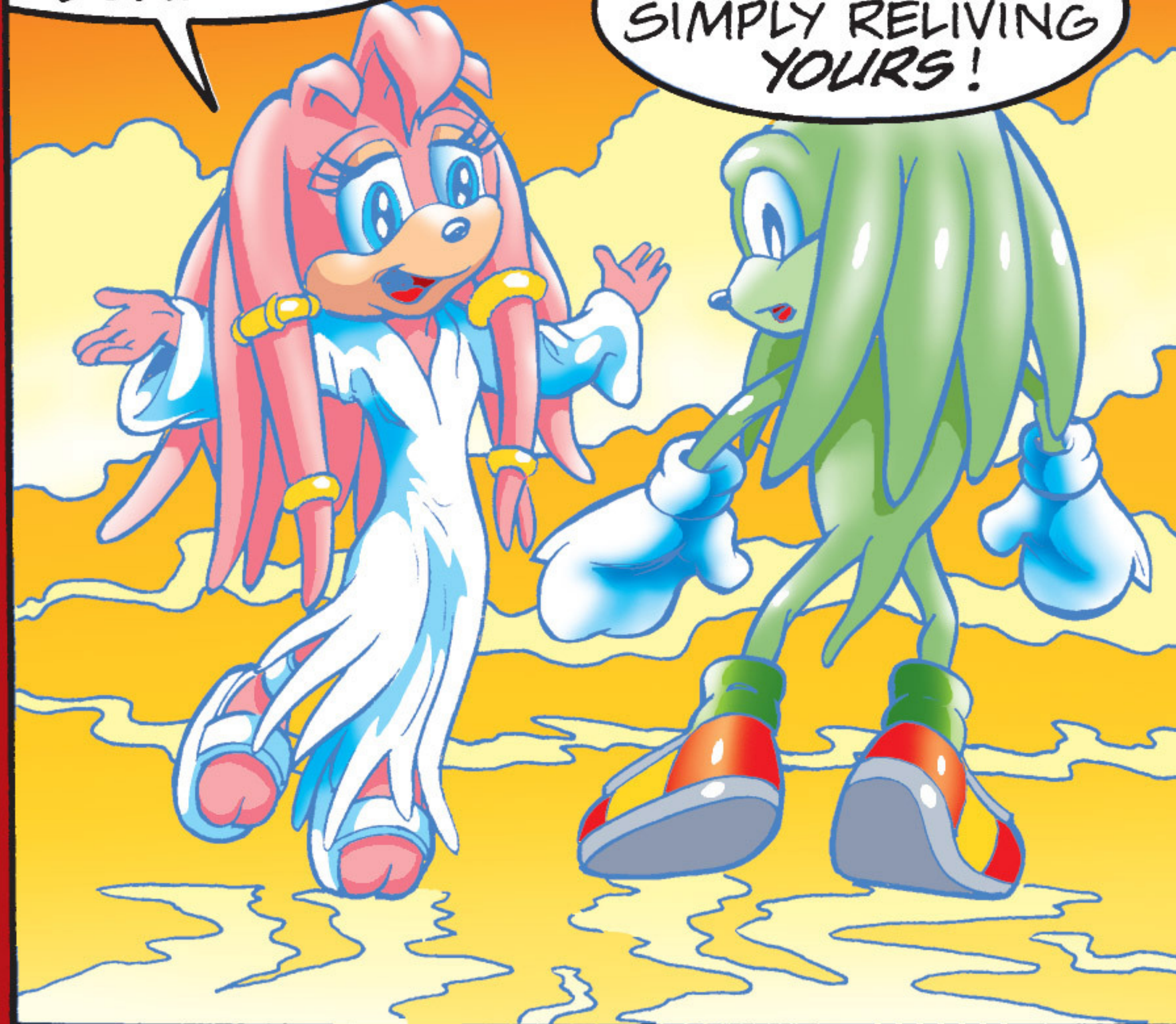
THAT WAS **BEFORE** JULIE-SU!

I'M JUST SURPRISED THEY CAN'T SEE US!

AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU, YOU'RE IN A **VIRTUAL ZONE**--

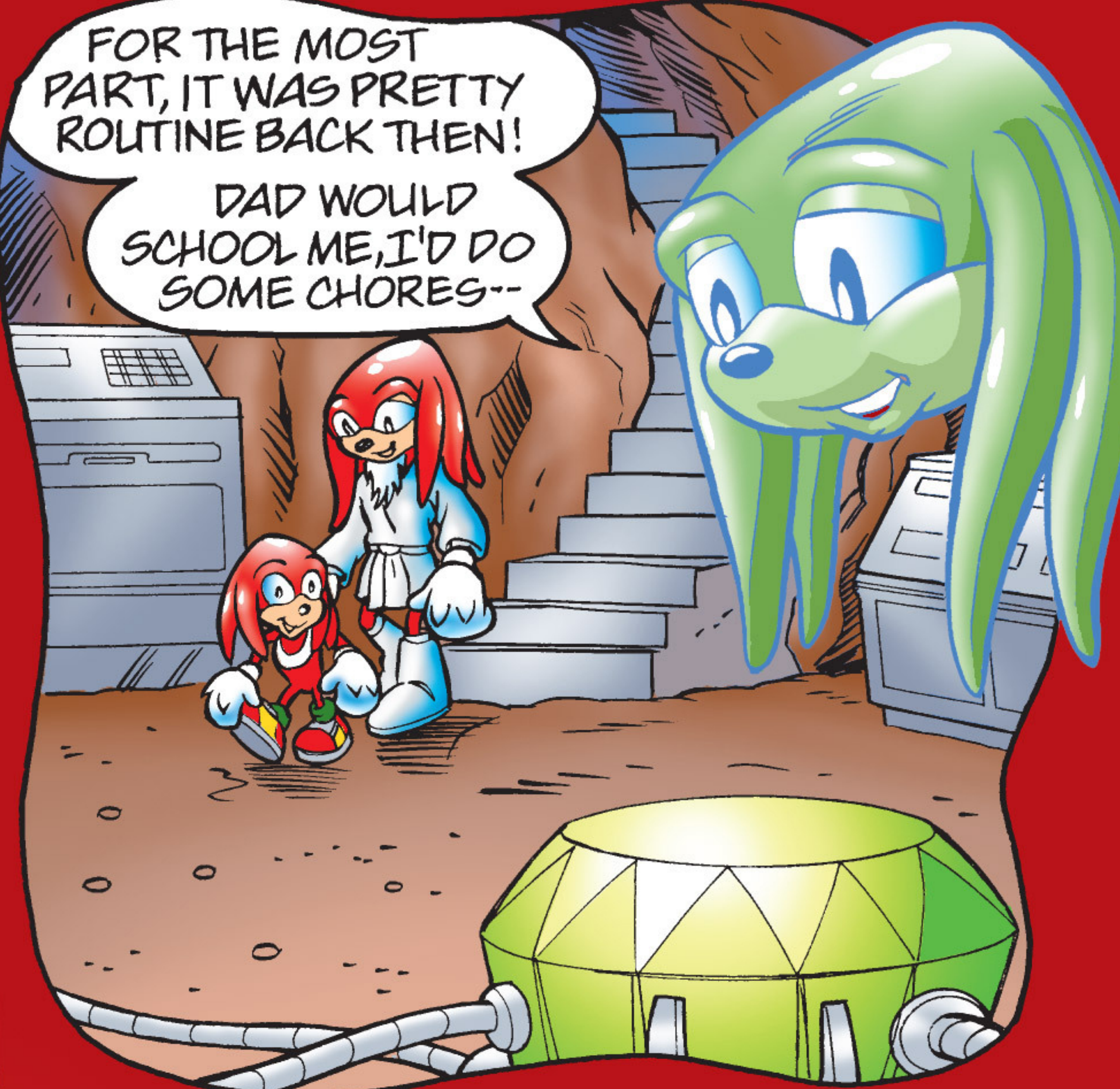
-- A REPOSITORY OF ALL LIFE'S EXPERIENCES--

-- AND YOU ARE SIMPLY RELIVING **YOURS**!



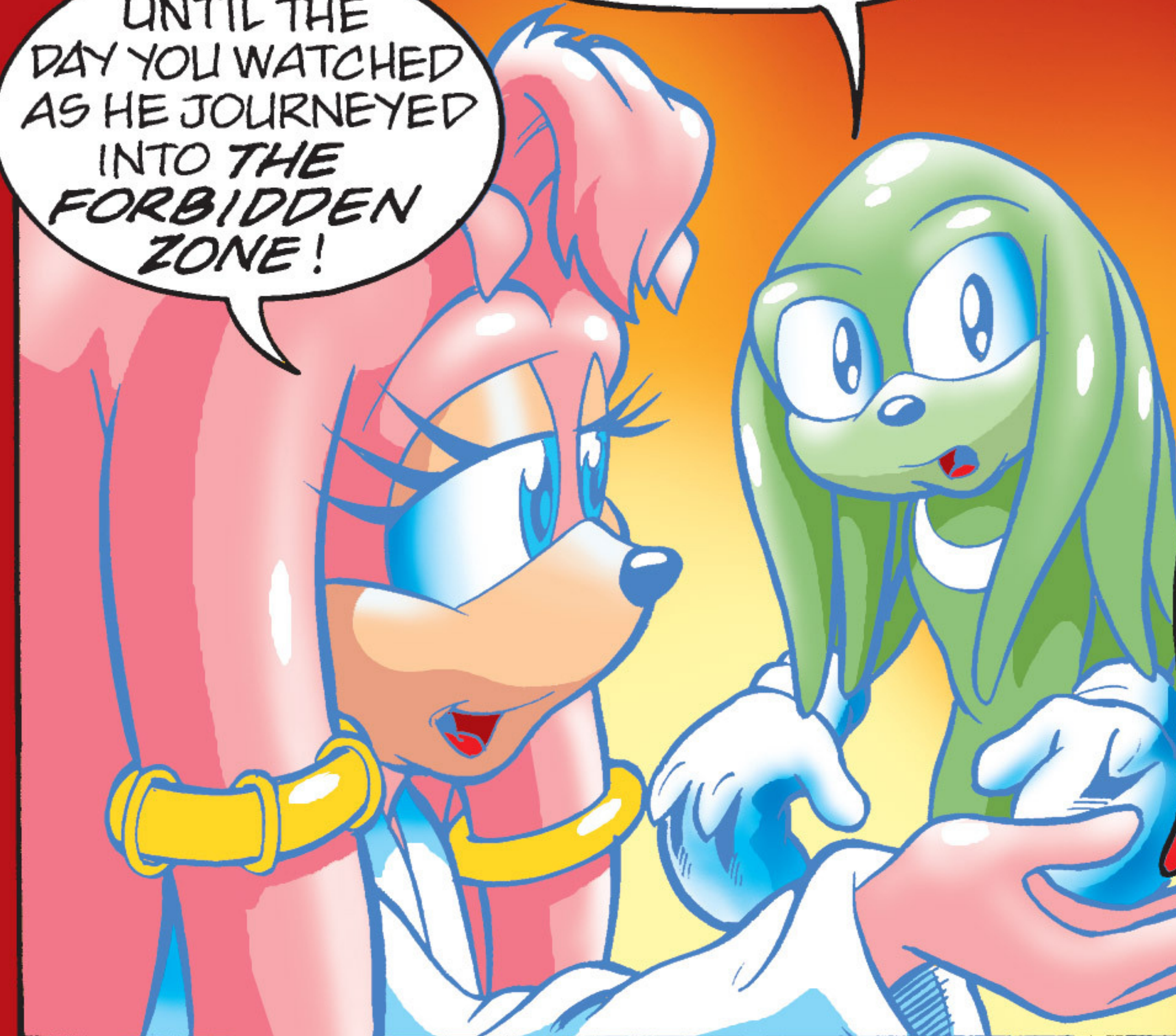
FOR THE MOST PART, IT WAS PRETTY ROUTINE BACK THEN!

DAD WOULD SCHOOL ME, I'D DO SOME CHORES--



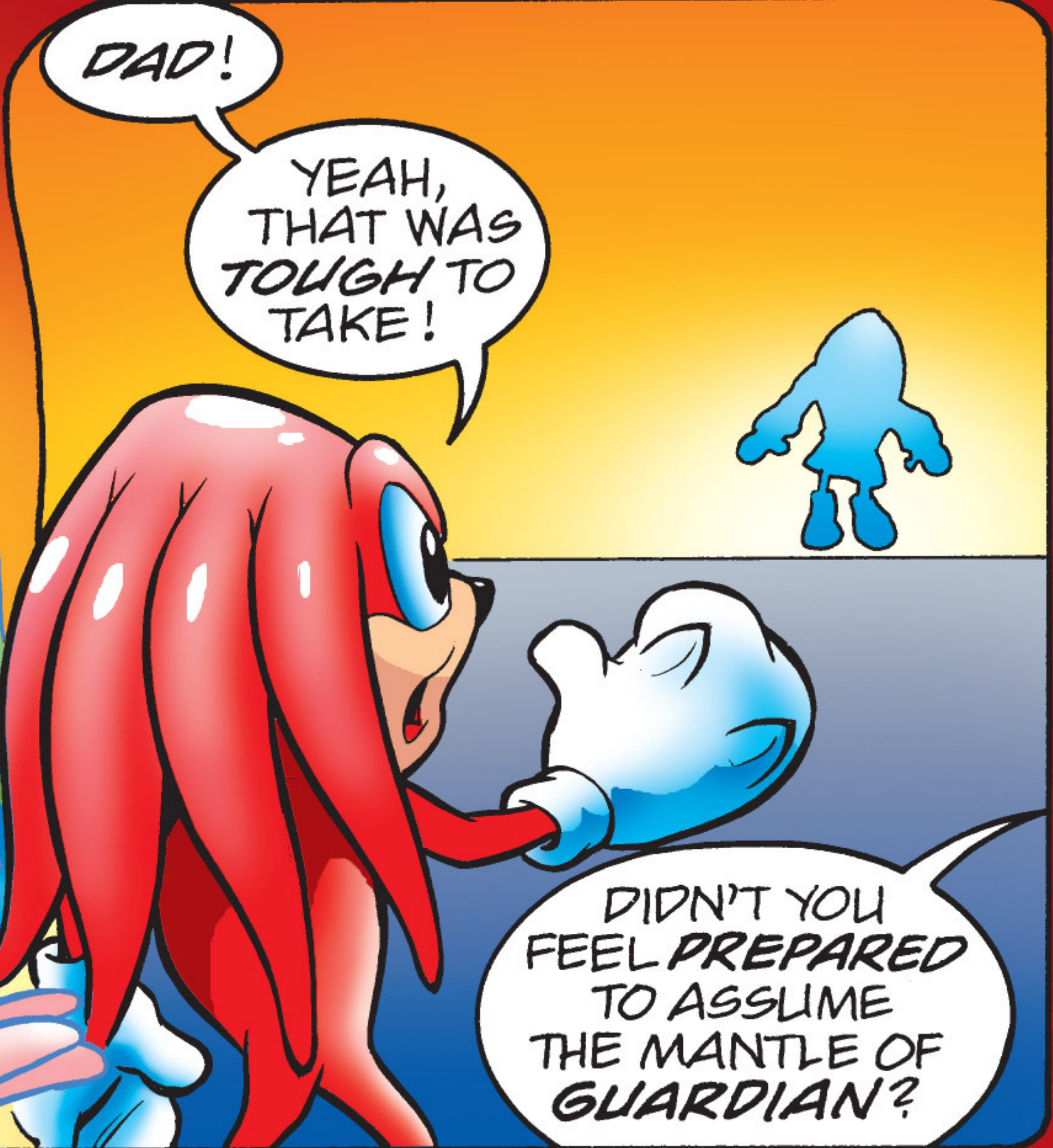
-- AND WE HAD FUN AFTERWARDS!

UNTIL THE DAY YOU WATCHED AS HE JOURNEYED INTO THE **FORBIDDEN ZONE**!



DAD!

YEAH, THAT WAS **TOUGH** TO TAKE!



DIDN'T YOU FEEL **PREPARED** TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF **GUARDIAN**?



OH, YEAH!  
NO SWEAT!

I JUST DIDN'T  
WANT MY DAD TO  
LEAVE!

I HADN'T GOTTEN IT OUT OF  
MY SYSTEM WHEN A **RUCKUS**  
BROKE OUT...

"IT WAS THAT CROCK  
I MET BEFORE,"\*

SQUAANK!  
SQUAAAK!

\*SEE LAST ISSUE

**YOU MANGY  
BUZZARD!**  
  
IF YA  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD,  
YOU'RE ONE  
**DEAD  
BIRD!**

WE DUKED IT OUT A BIT AND  
SHOOK HANDS AFTER!

STUPID  
BIRD TRIED  
TO WREAK MY  
**WALKMAN!**

SO, WHAT WAS  
THE PROBLEM?

HOW ABOUT  
THIS ONE--  
  
-- THE **BIGGER**  
THEY ARE, THE **HARDER**  
THEY **FALL!**

"FOR THE MOST PART, BEING A **GUARDIAN** WAS  
AN EASY GIG, UNTIL THE DAY **HE** SHOWED UP..."

"YOU MEAN **HIM?**"



"NO--THEM! SONIC AND TAILS--"

SO, IF YOU MUGS  
WEREN'T AFTER THE  
**CHAOS EMERALD**,  
THEN WHO--?

IT WAS THAT CHUMP,  
**ROBUTTNIK!**

"--WHO KEPT POPPING UP  
EVERY NOW AND THEN--"

WHO'D OF THUNK  
THE **RAT** WOULD GET  
CAUGHT IN **HIS OWN**  
**TRAP**?!

OR YOU'D  
BE HANGING  
OUT WITH **THE**  
**CHAOTIX**?

"--SOMETIMES AS **FRIENDS**,  
BUT USUALLY WE'D END UP  
**BASHING** EACH OTHER OVER  
SOME **STUPID** REASON!"

"BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND,  
**ARCHIMEDES** USED MY BUDS TO  
**LURE** ME TO HIM..."

SO GLAD YOU  
COULD JOIN US,  
KNUCKLES!

WE'VE  
A LOT TO  
DISCUSS!

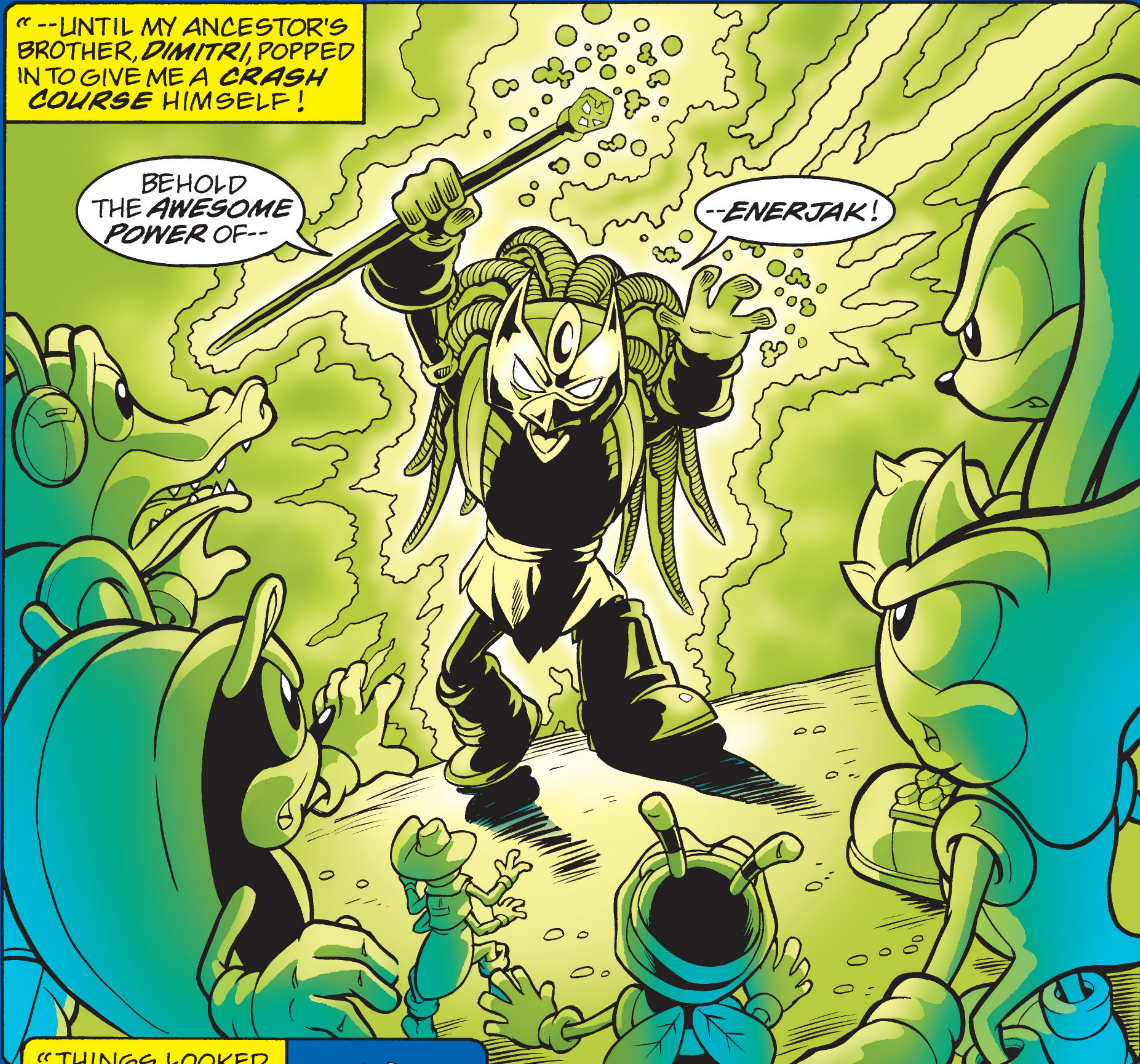
"IT TURNED OUT HE WAS  
GOING TO **TEACH** ME A  
THING OR TWO ABOUT  
BEING A **GUARDIAN**--"



"--UNTIL MY ANCESTOR'S BROTHER, *DIMITRI*, POPPED IN TO GIVE ME A *CRASH COURSE* HIMSELF!

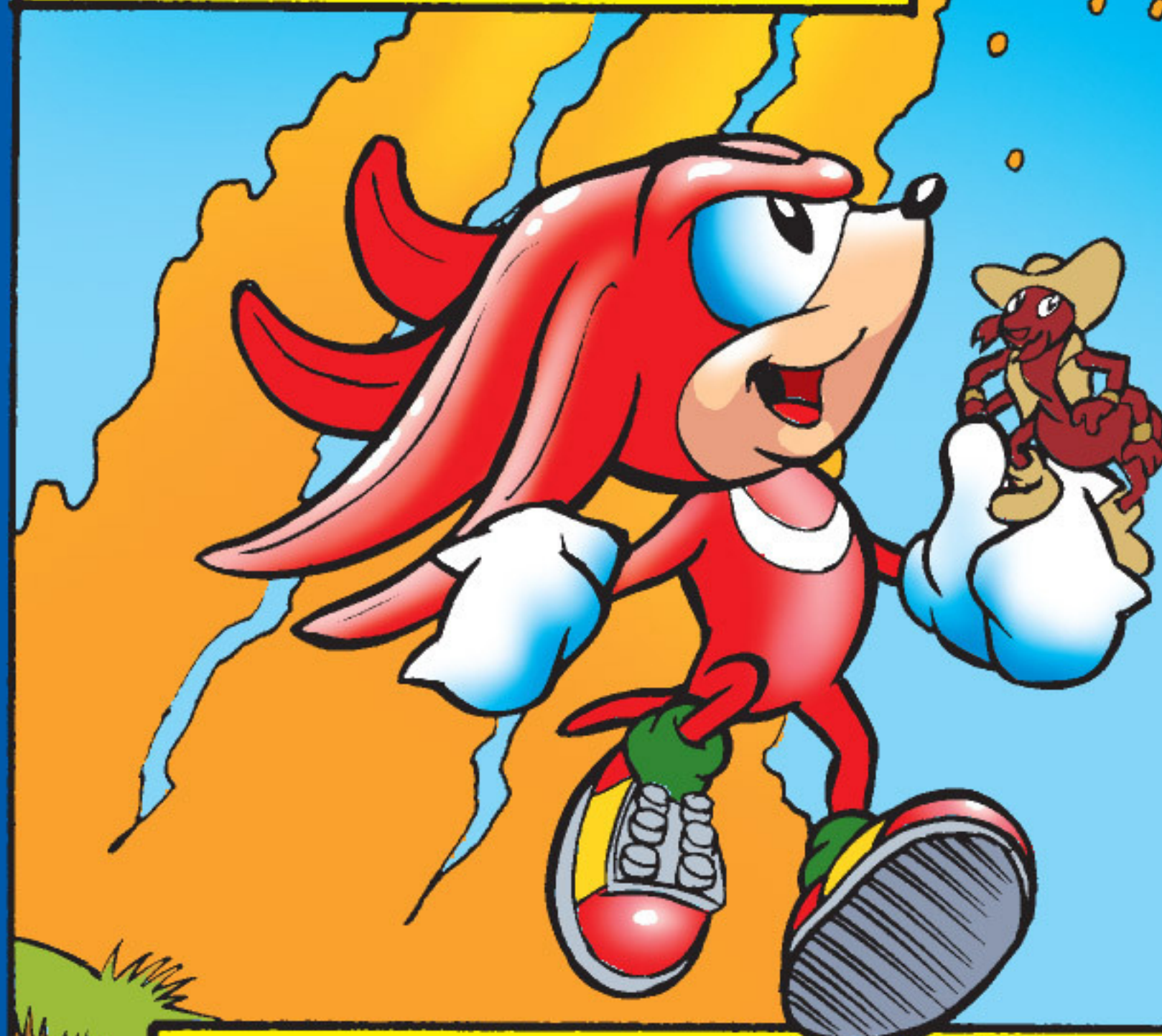
BEHOLD THE *AWESOME POWER* OF--

--*ENERJAK*!



"THINGS LOOKED *GRIM* FOR AWHILE THERE, BUT WE WON IN THE END--

"--THANKS TO SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE *FIRE-ANTS*--



"--AND SOME *HIDDEN HELP* FROM MY FATHER, *LOCKE*!

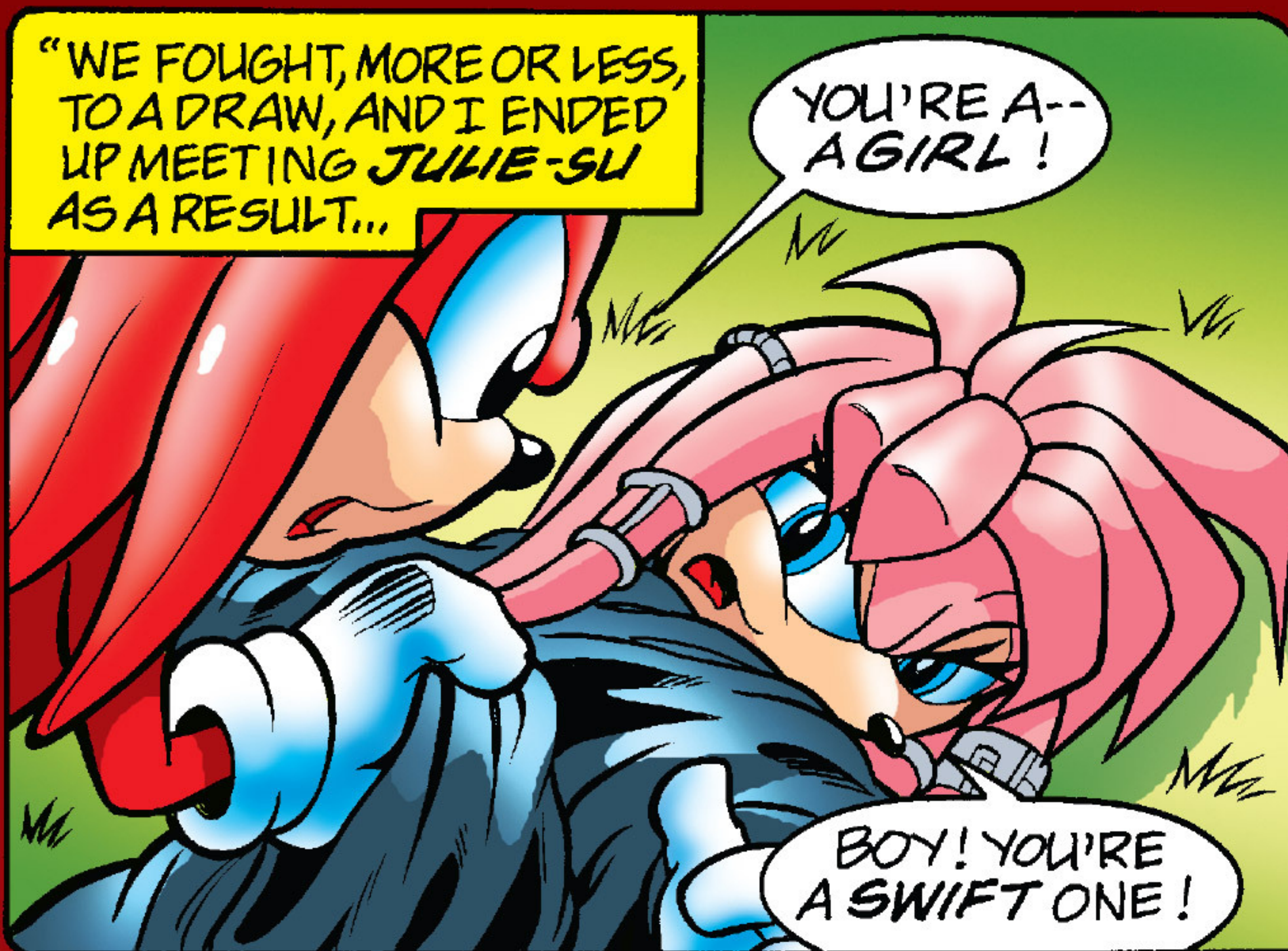
"BUT EVEN WITH *ENERJAK* OUT OF SIGHT, THERE WAS STILL *KRAGOK* AND THE *DARK LEGION* TO DEAL WITH SOON AFTER THAT...



YOU CAN EITHER JOIN US, KNUCKLES--

--OR DIE!

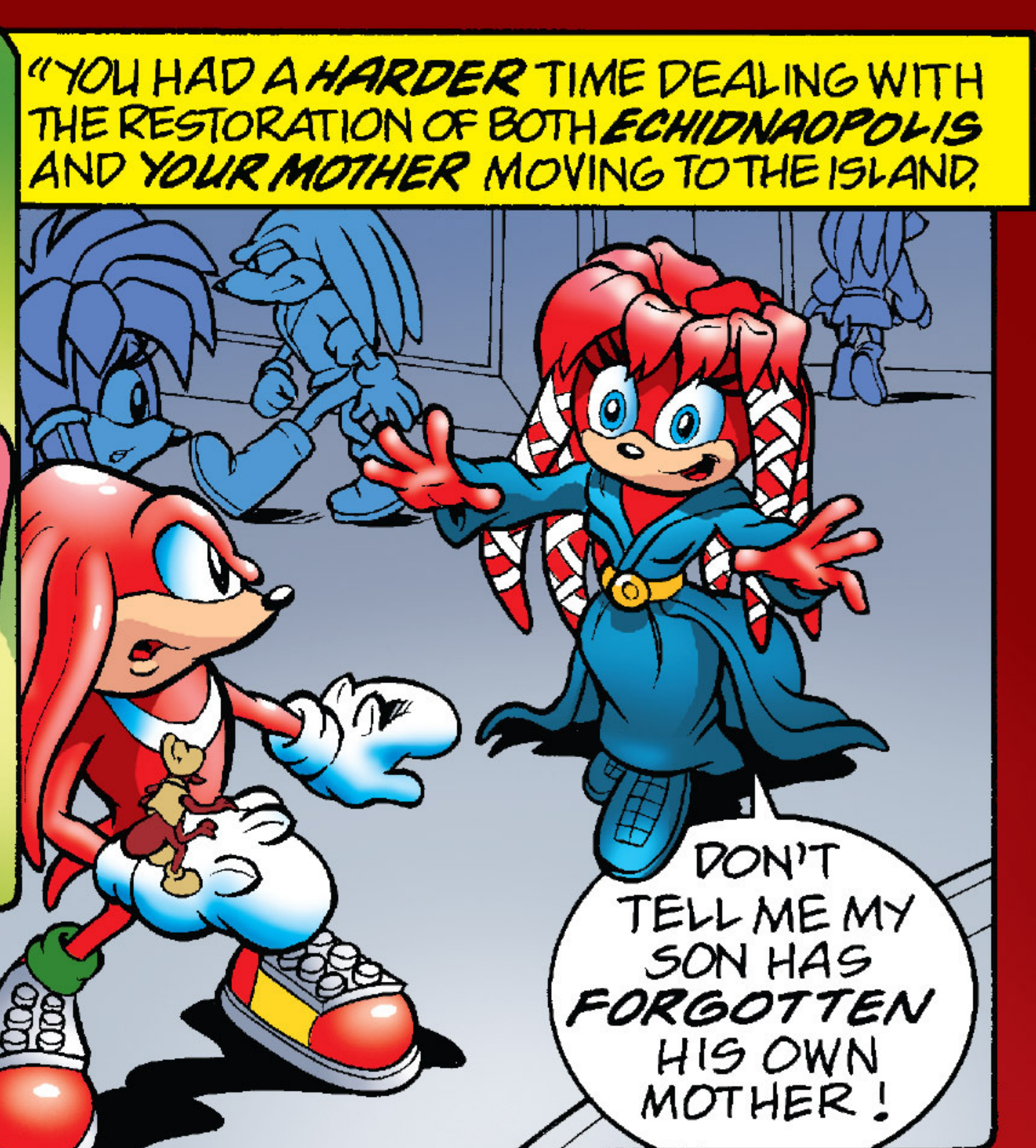




"WE FOUGHT, MORE OR LESS, TO A DRAW, AND I ENDED UP MEETING **JULIE-SU** AS A RESULT..."

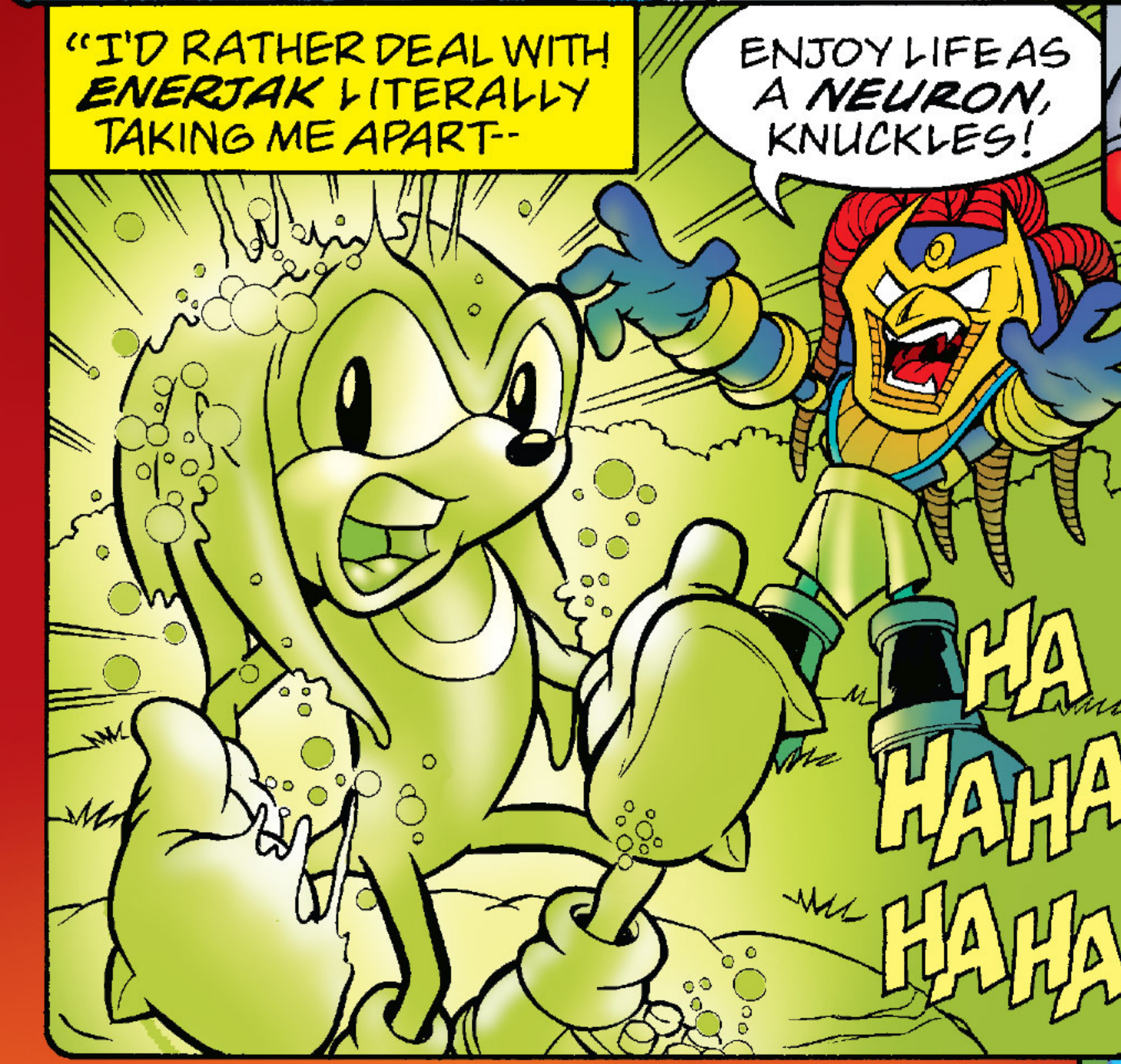
YOU'RE A--  
A GIRL!

BOY! YOU'RE  
A **SWIFT** ONE!



"YOU HAD A **HARDER** TIME DEALING WITH THE RESTORATION OF BOTH **ECHIDNAOPOLIS** AND YOUR MOTHER MOVING TO THE ISLAND."

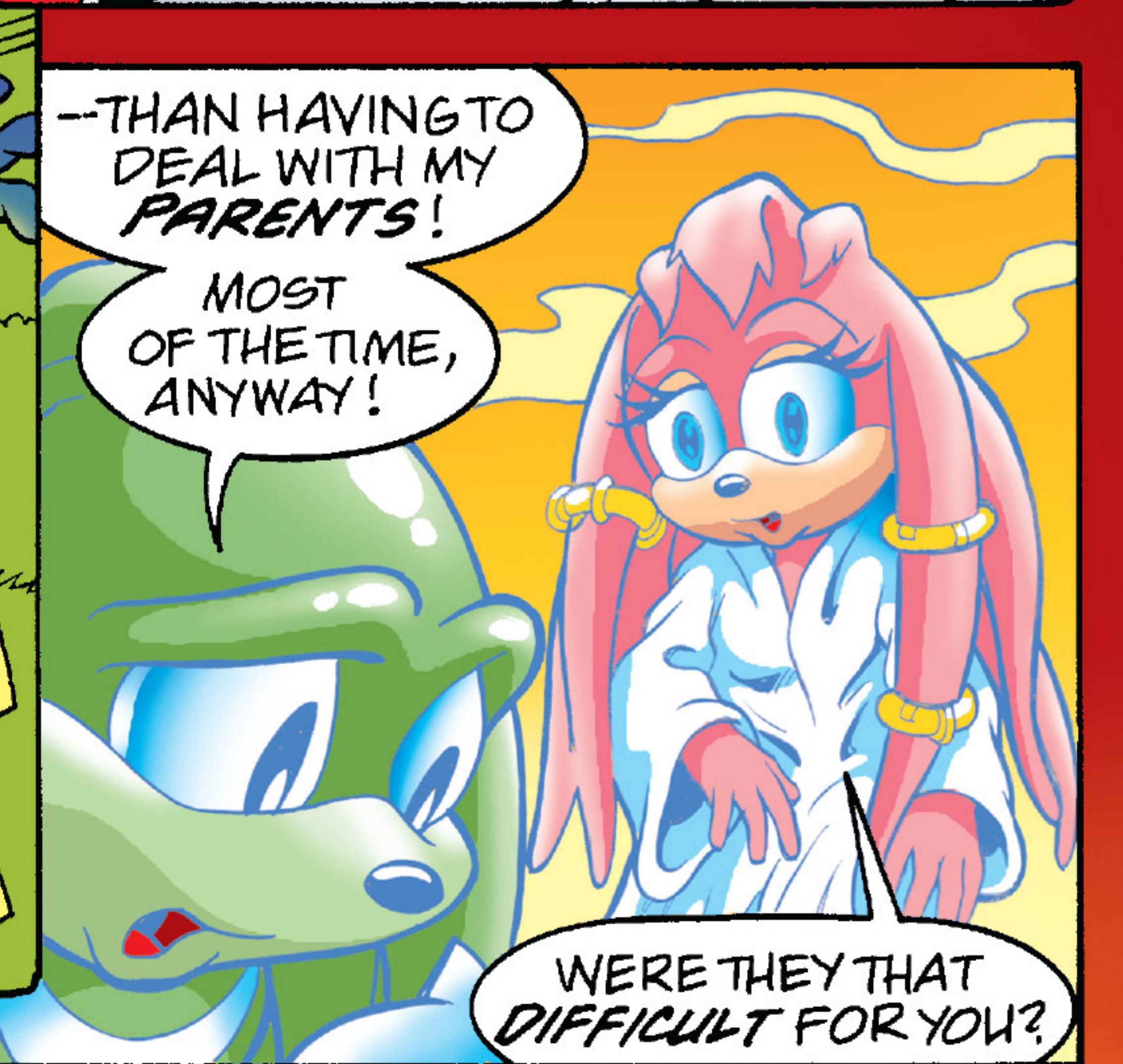
DON'T  
TELL ME MY  
SON HAS  
**FORGOTTEN**  
HIS OWN  
MOTHER!



"I'D RATHER DEAL WITH **ENERJAK** LITERALLY TAKING ME APART--"

ENJOY LIFE AS  
A **NEURON**,  
KNUCKLES!

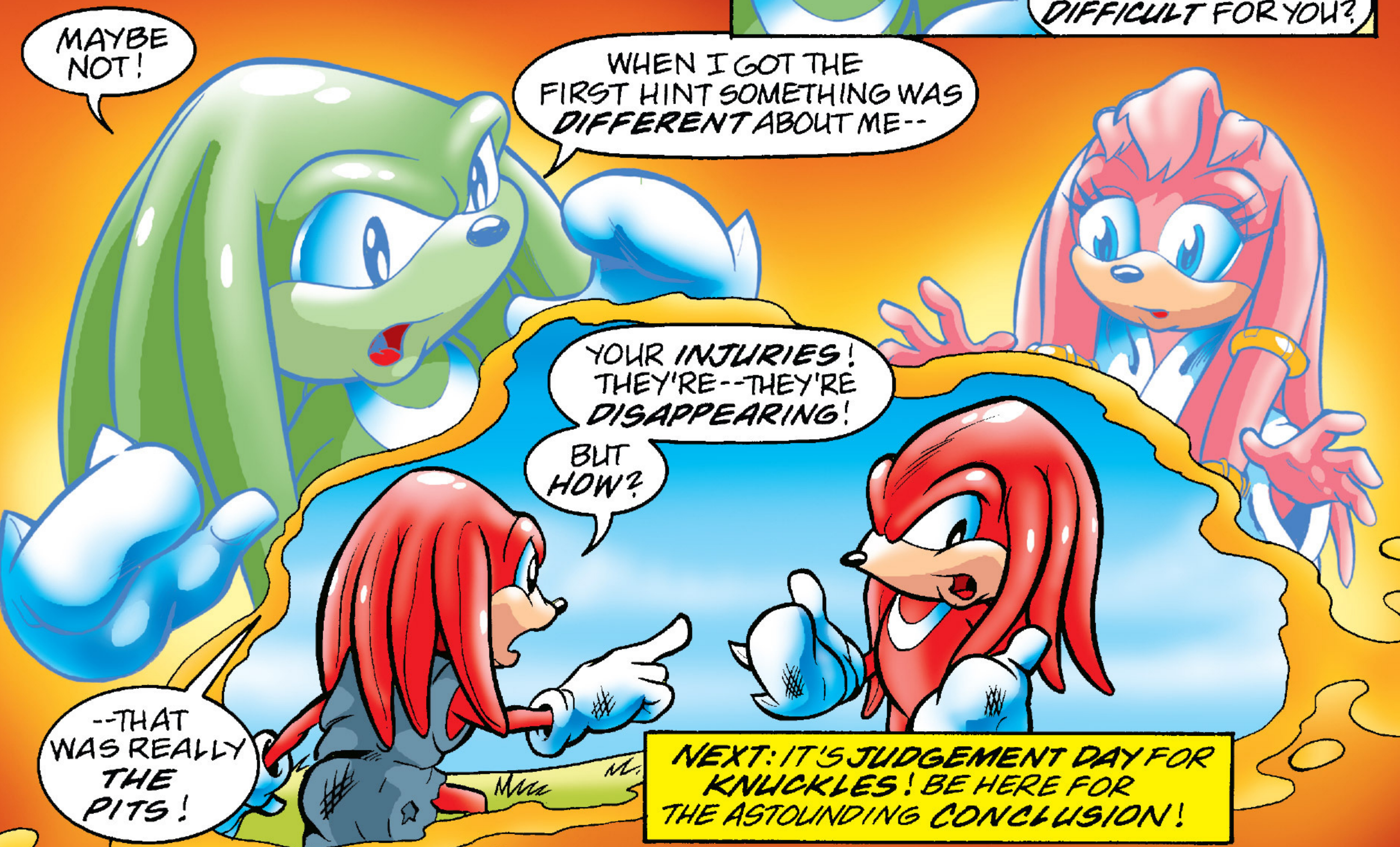
HA  
HAHA  
HAHA



--THAN HAVING TO  
DEAL WITH MY  
**PARENTS**!

MOST  
OF THE TIME,  
ANYWAY!

WERE THEY THAT  
**DIFFICULT** FOR YOU?



MAYBE  
NOT!

WHEN I GOT THE  
FIRST HINT SOMETHING WAS  
**DIFFERENT** ABOUT ME--

YOUR INJURIES!  
THEY'RE--THEY'RE  
**DISAPPEARING**!

BUT  
**HOW?**

--THAT  
WAS REALLY  
**THE**  
**PITS**!

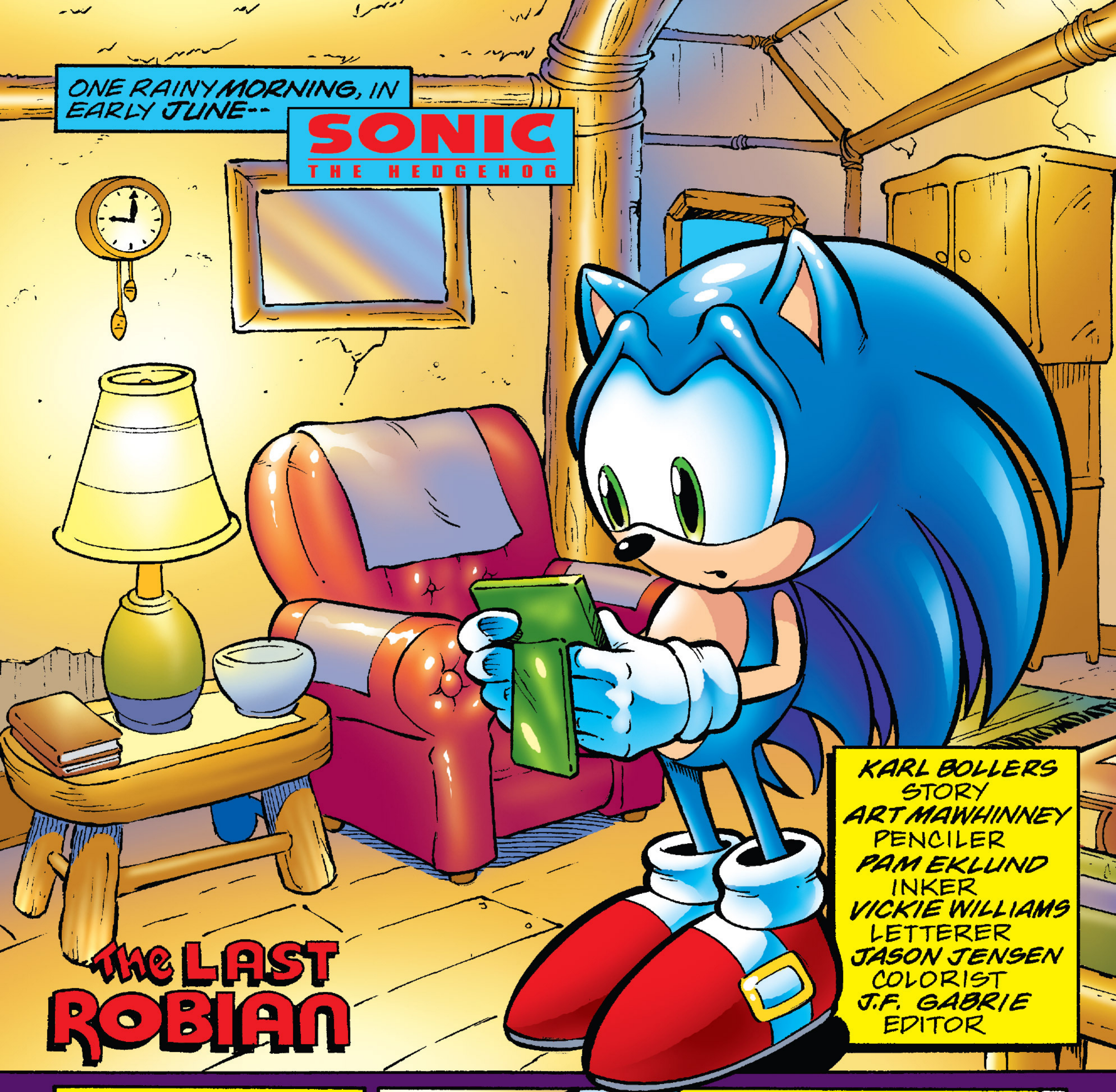
**NEXT: IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY FOR  
KNUCKLES! BE HERE FOR  
THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION!**



ONE RAINY MORNING, IN  
EARLY JUNE--

# SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

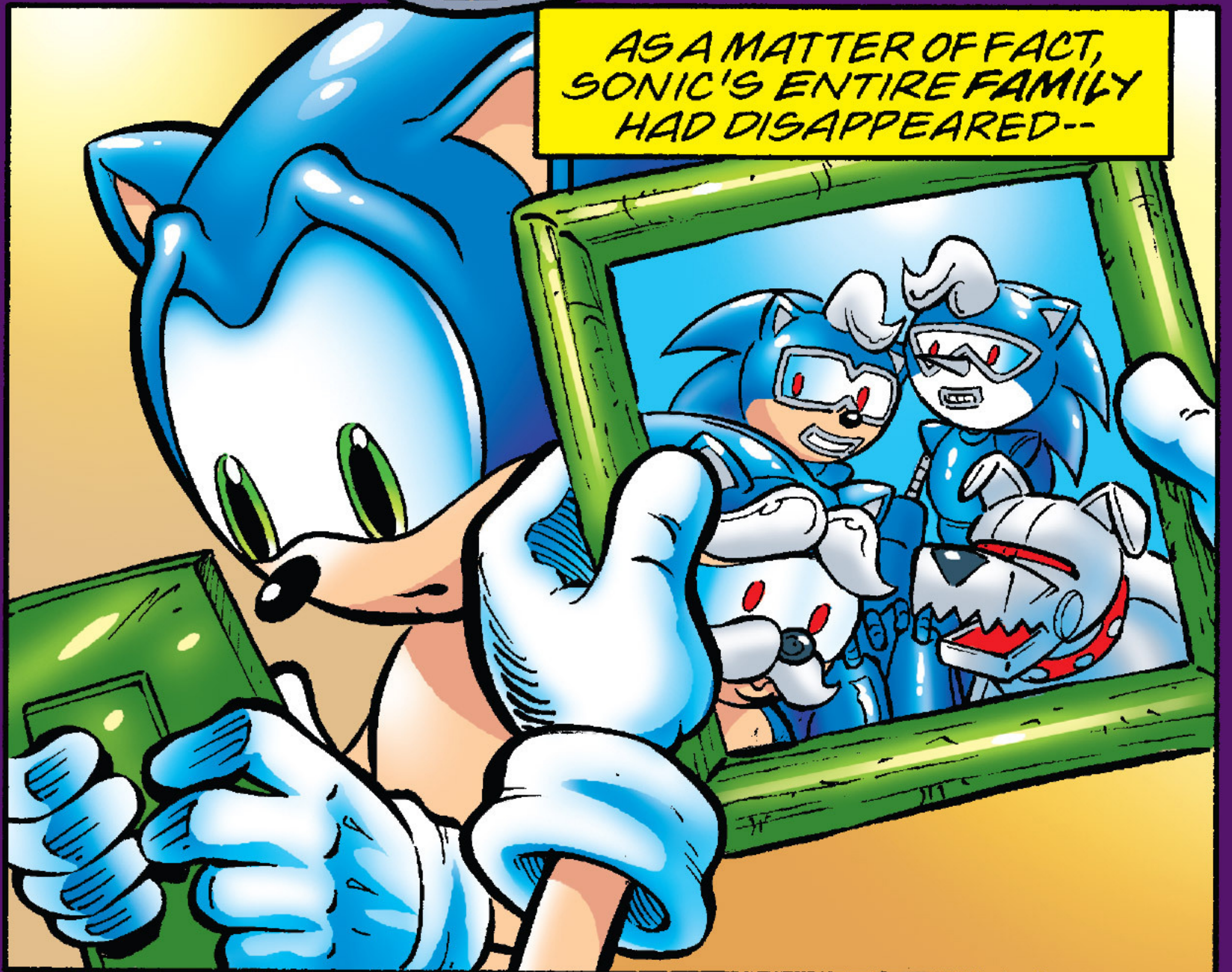


KARL BOLLERS  
STORY  
ART MAWHINNEY  
PENCILER  
PAM EKLUND  
INKER  
VICKIE WILLIAMS  
LETTERER  
JASON JENSEN  
COLORIST  
J.F. GABRIE  
EDITOR

--WOKE UP TO FIND  
THAT HIS DOG, MUTTSKI  
WAS MISSING.



AS A MATTER OF FACT,  
SONIC'S ENTIRE FAMILY  
HAD DISAPPEARED--



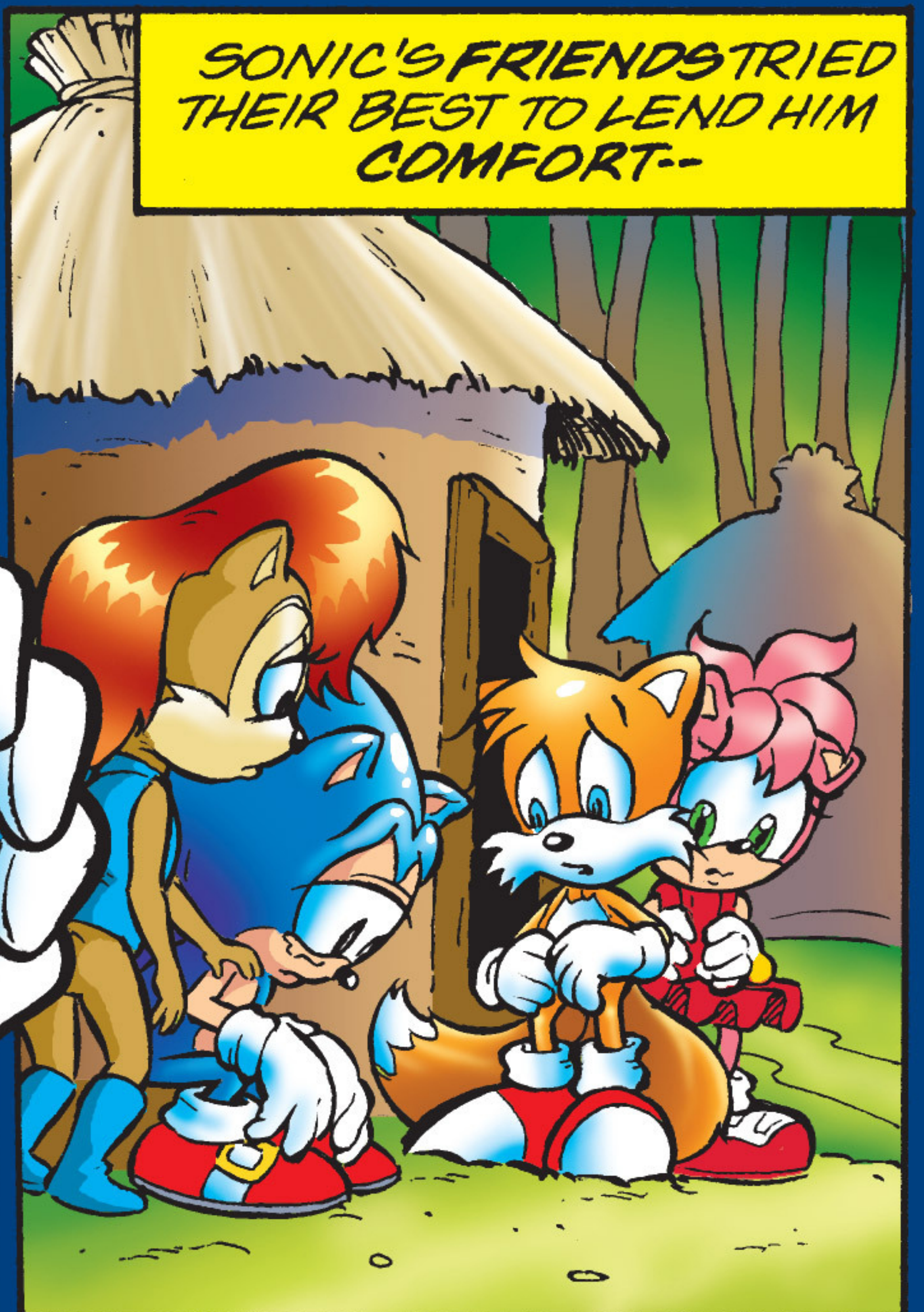
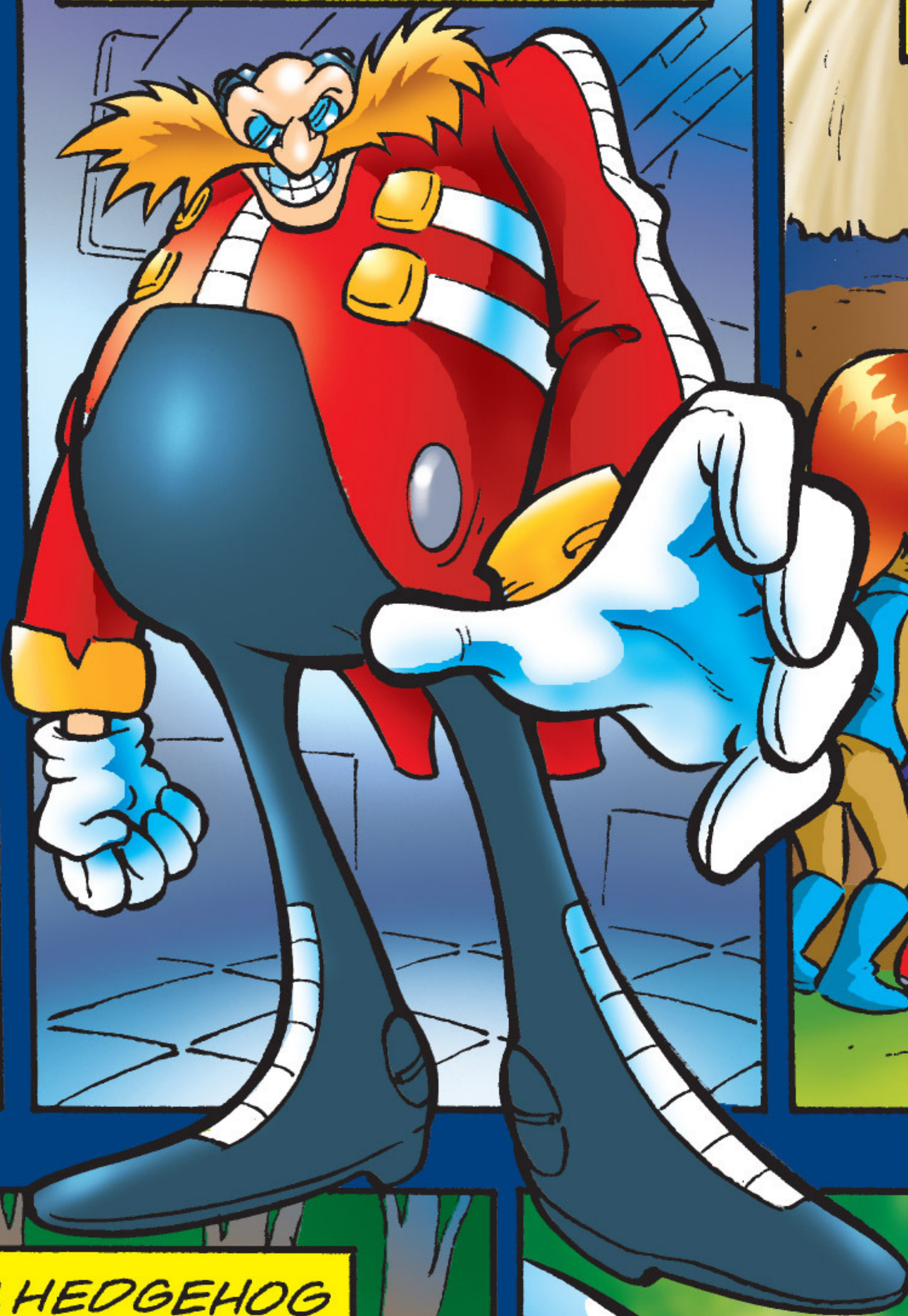


--AS WELL AS  
THE ENTIRE  
ROBOTICIZED  
POPULATION  
OF PLANET  
MOBIUS,

--BUT WAS NOWHERE  
TO BE FOUND,

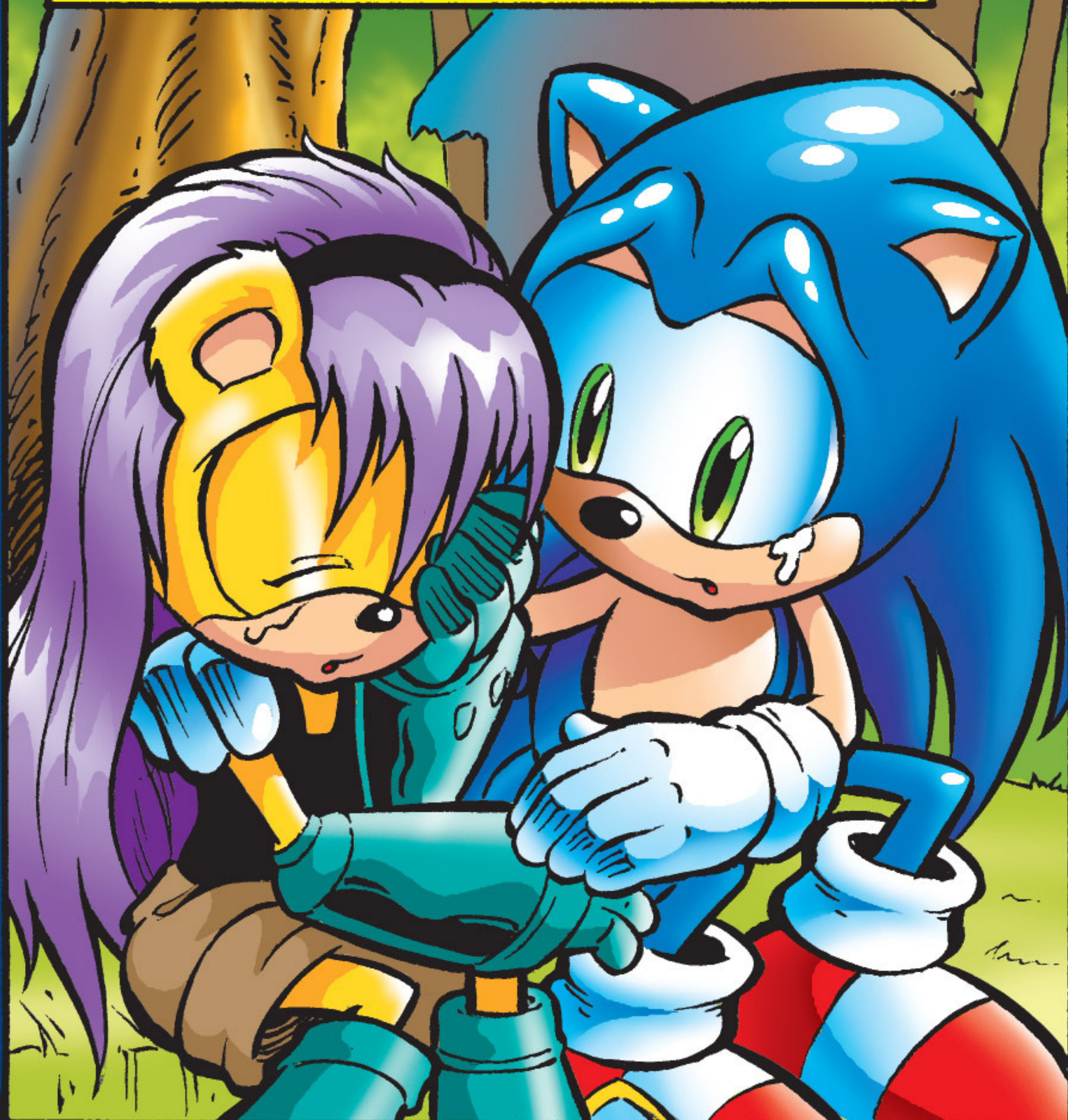
SONIC'S FRIENDS TRIED  
THEIR BEST TO LEND HIM  
COMFORT--

THE EVIL  
DOCTOR  
ROBOTNIK  
WAS  
IMMEDIATELY  
SUSPECTED OF  
THE HEINOUS  
ACT--



--AND THE HEROIC HEDGEHOG  
FOUND HIMSELF ALSO  
CONSOLING OTHERS DURING  
THIS TIME OF SUFFERING--

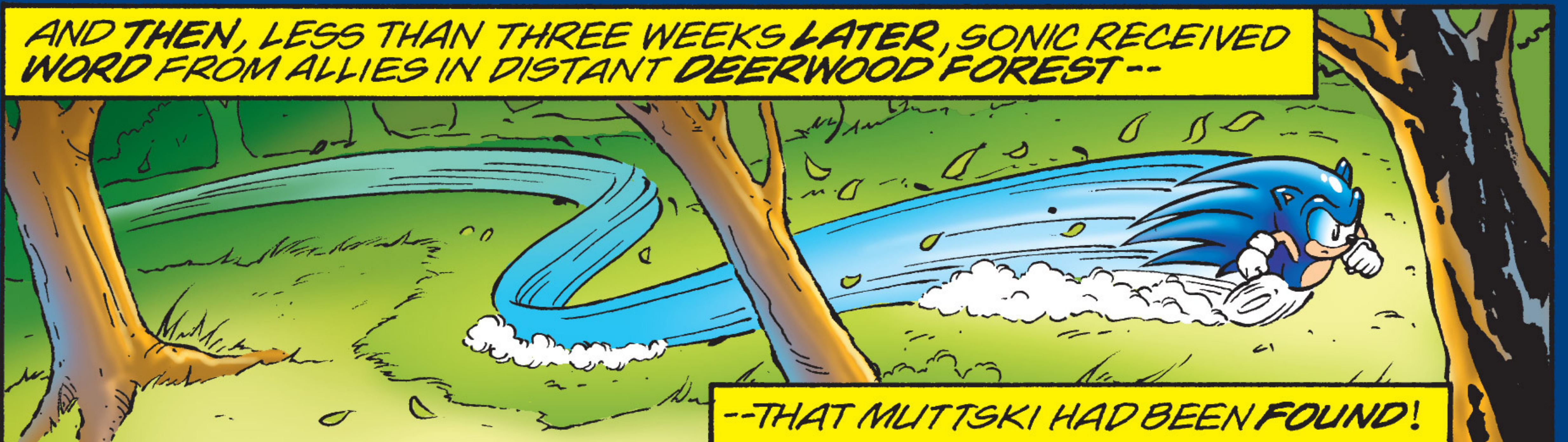
--BUT NOTHING COULD  
TAKE AWAY THE AWFUL  
PAIN, OR THE AWFUL  
FACT--



--THE ROBBIANS  
WERE GONE.



AND THEN, LESS THAN THREE WEEKS LATER, SONIC RECEIVED  
WORD FROM ALLIES IN DISTANT DEERWOOD FOREST--

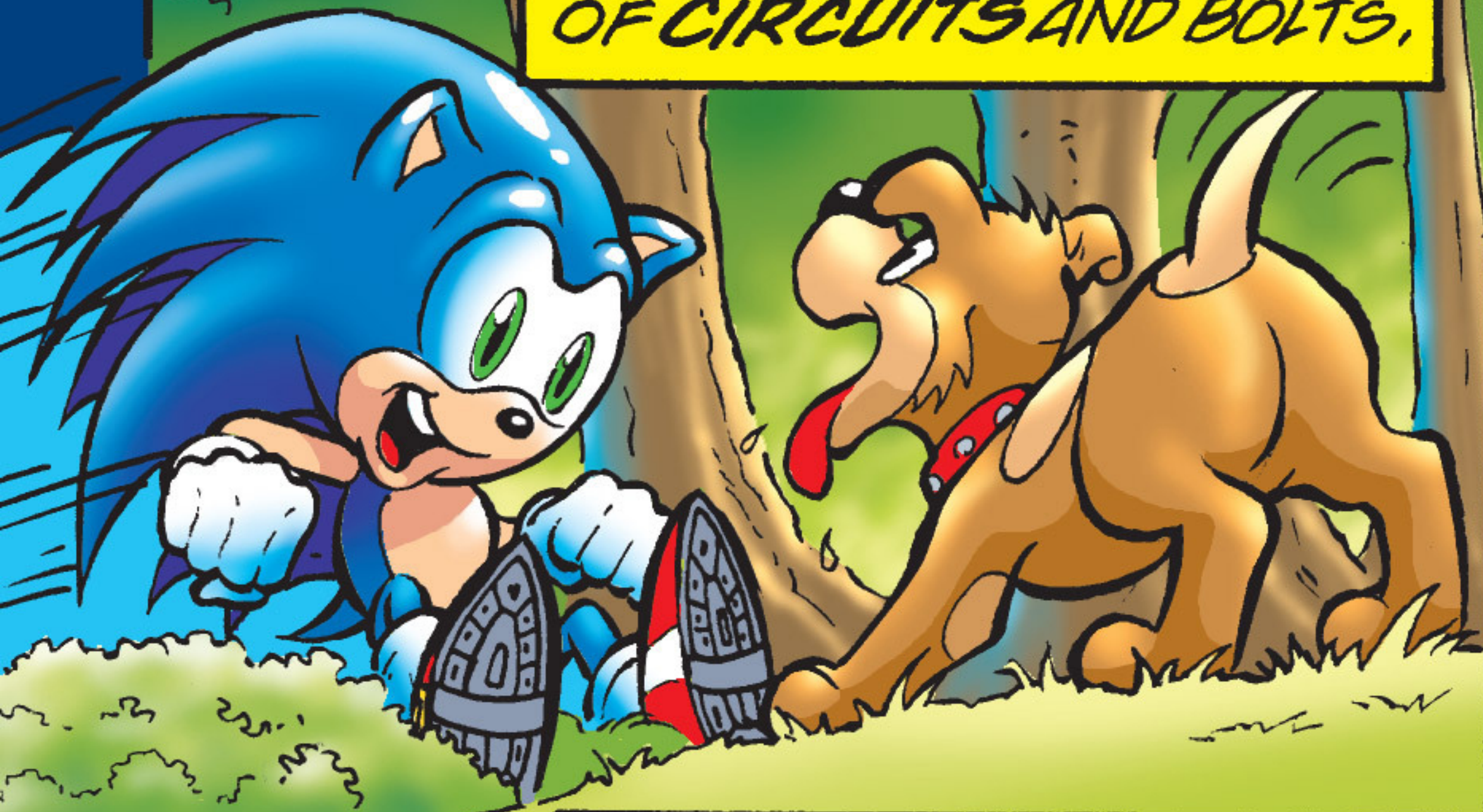


--THAT MUTTSKI HAD BEEN FOUND!



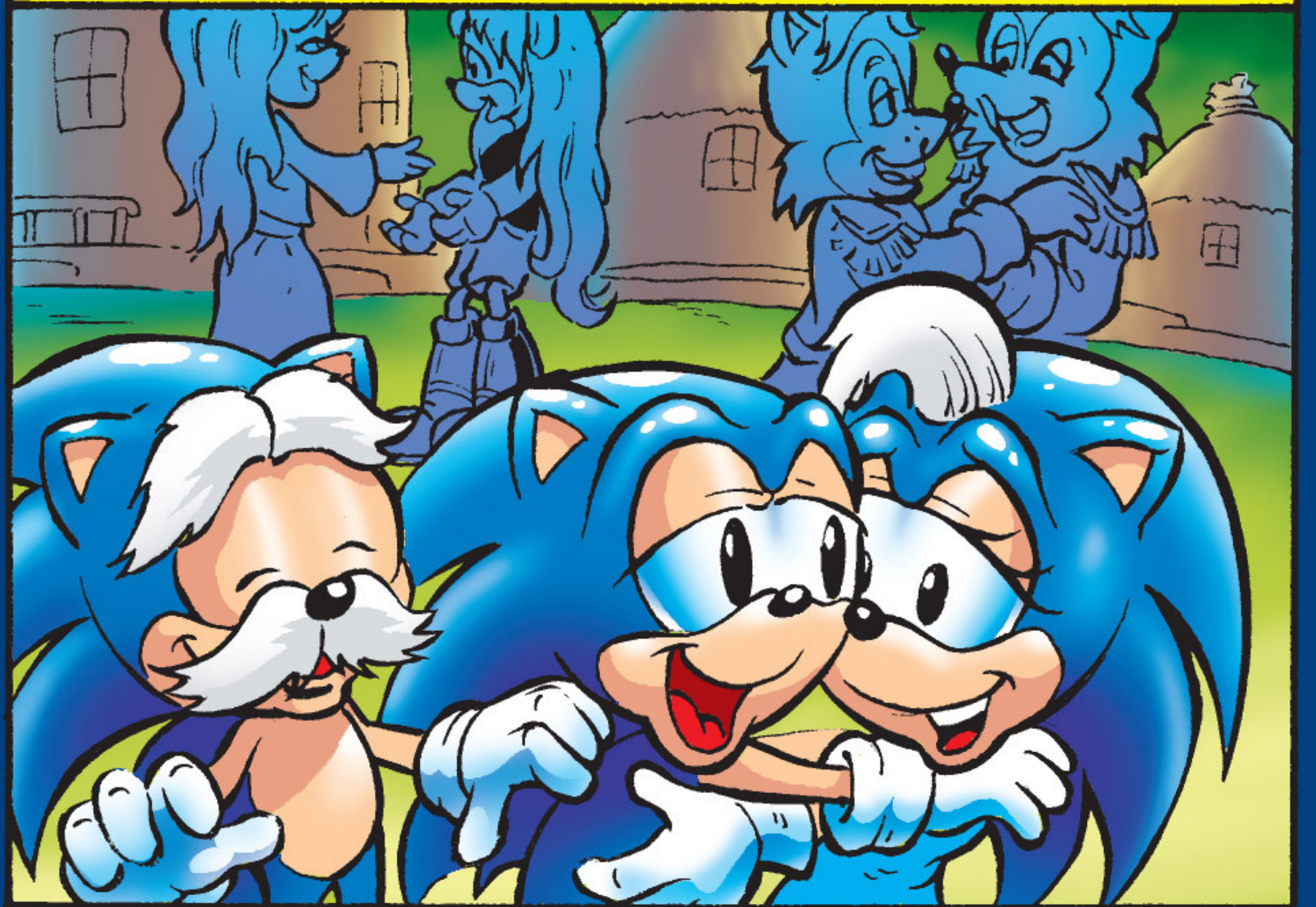
BUT HE HAD BEEN CHANGED,

DEROBOTICIZED, NO  
LONGER A CREATURE  
OF CIRCUITS AND BOLTS,



AND SLOWLY, OVER THE  
FOLLOWING WEEKS--

--THE OTHERS REAPPEARED, ALSO CHANGED,  
AND WITH NO MEMORY OF HOW THIS MASS  
"METALMORPHOSIS" HAD OCCURRED,



THOUGH THE MYSTERY REMAINED  
UNSOLVED, IT WAS AGREED THE  
WORLD OVER, THAT A MIRACLE  
HAD OCCURRED,

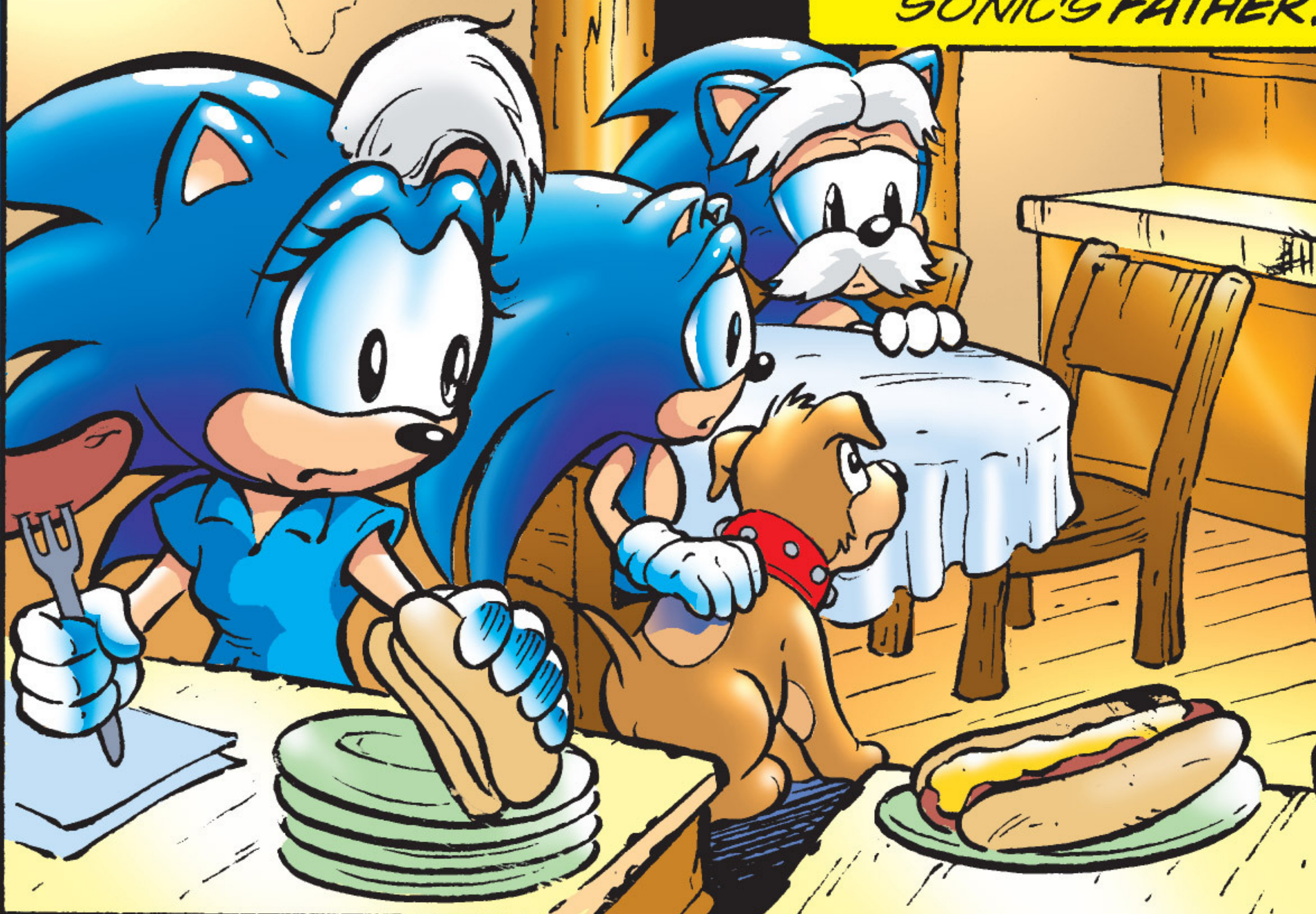
AS TIME WENT ON, ALL OF THE  
ROBIANS WERE RETURNED,  
RESTORED TO FLESH AND BLOOD,



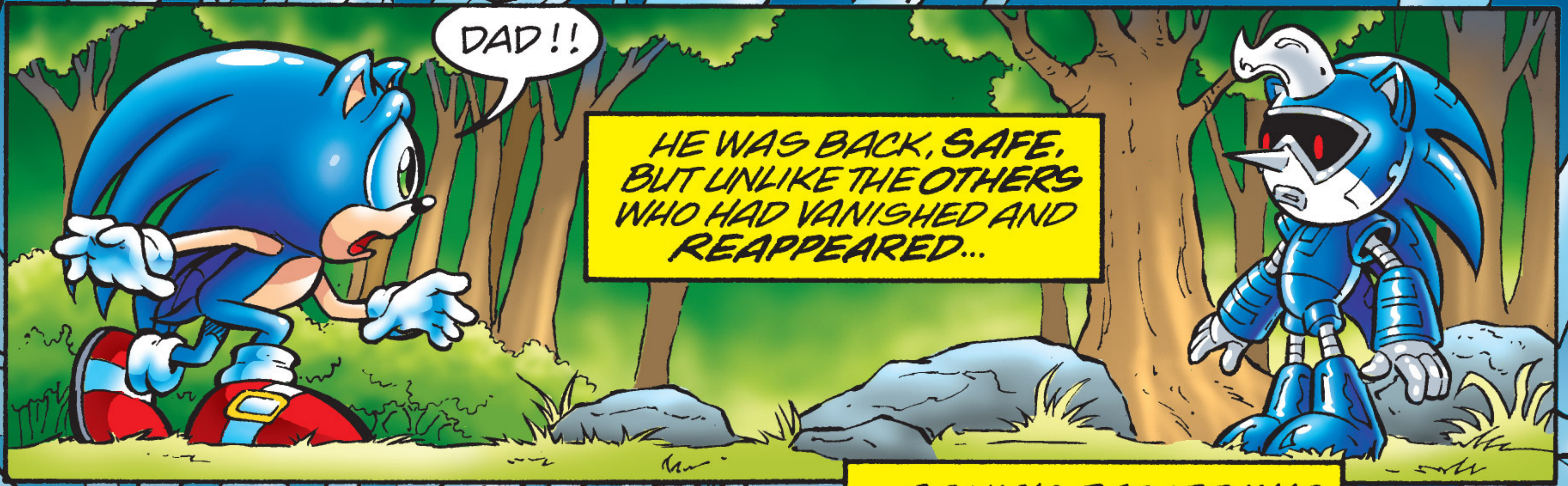
EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO  
REMAINED MISSING.

JULES THE HEDGEHOG,  
SONIC'S FATHER.

UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY.







DAD!!

HE WAS BACK, SAFE, BUT UNLIKE THE OTHERS WHO HAD VANISHED AND REAPPEARED...

...SONIC'S FATHER WAS STILL ROBOTICIZED,

DON'T WORRY, JULES! I WON'T REST UNTIL I'VE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE YOU JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

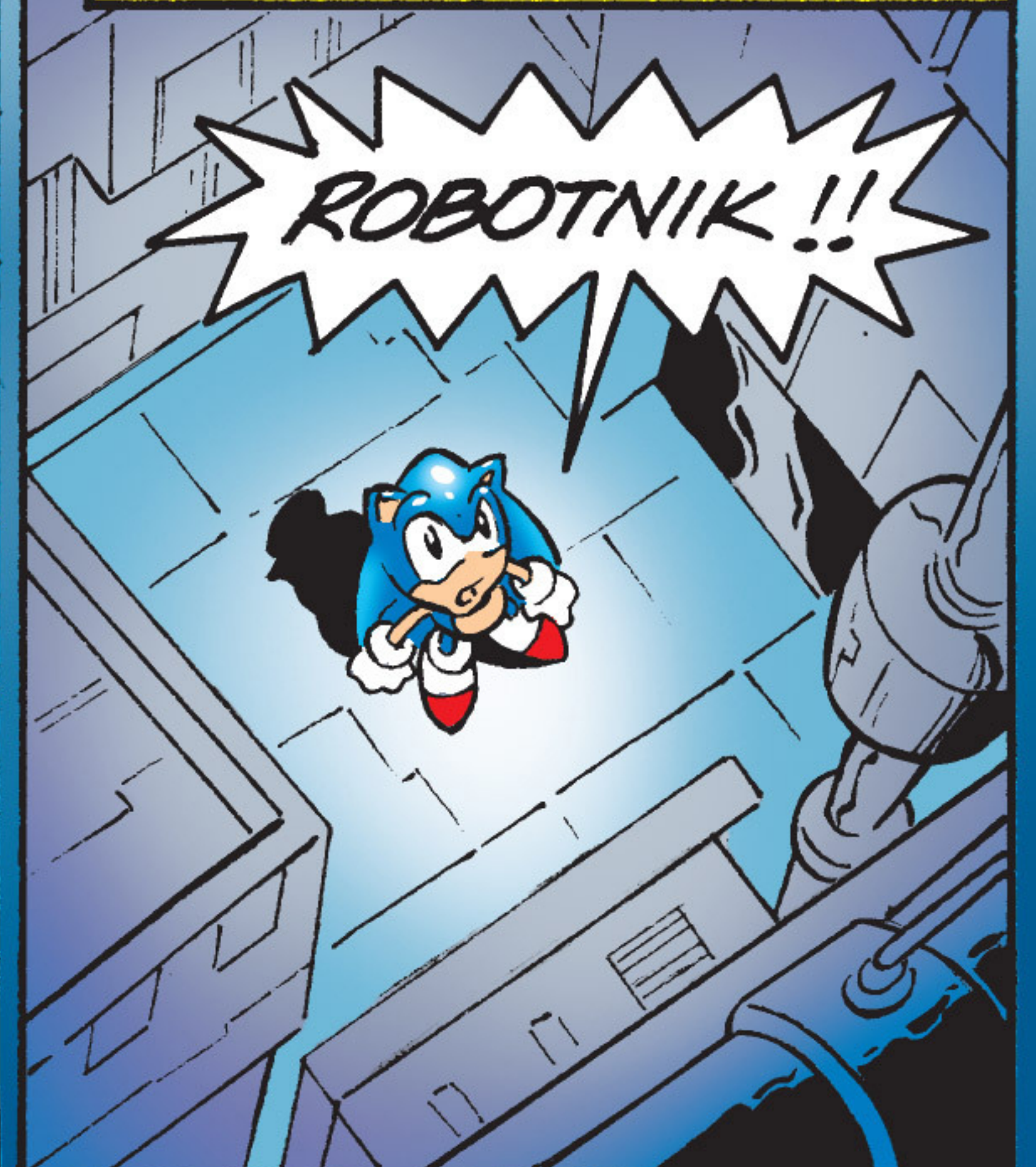
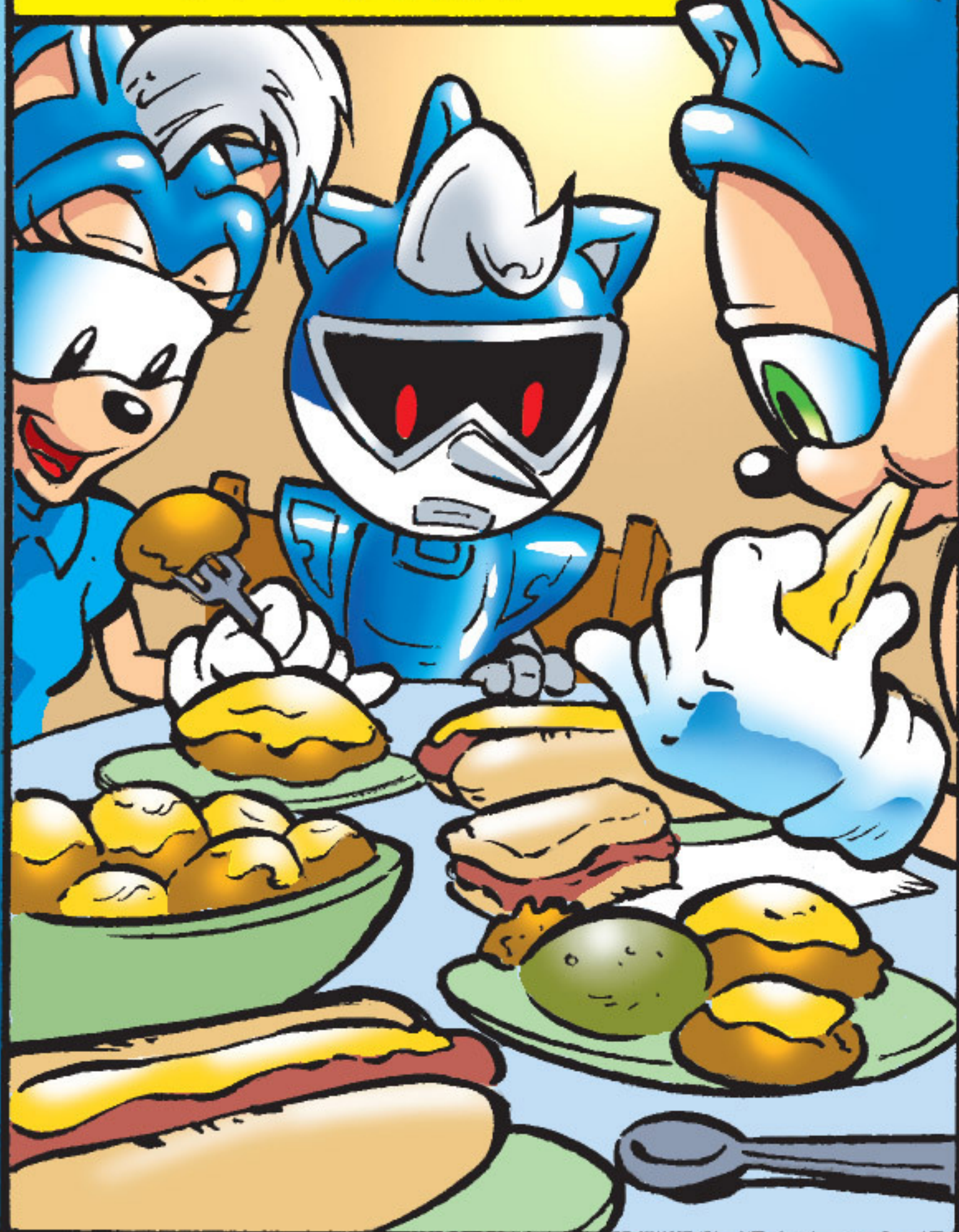
BUT EVEN THOUGH SONIC'S UNCLE CHUCK WORKED DAY AND NIGHT TO FIND A CURE...

...HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

AS THE WEEKS DRAGGED ON, JULES DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS AN OUTSIDER LOOKING IN AT HIS FAMILY. THEY COULD EAT.

THEY COULD SLEEP. HE COULDN'T. WHY HAD IT TAKEN HIM SO LONG TO NOTICE ALL THESE DIFFERENCES?

SONIC THOUGHT IT CRUEL AND UNFAIR, AND THEN REALIZED, THE ONLY PERSON ON THE PLANET HE ASSOCIATED THOSE WORDS WITH WAS--



ROBOTNIK!!



WHAT IS IT, HEDGEHOG?!  
YOU'RE CUTTING IN ON  
PRECIOUS "SCHEMING"  
TIME!

WHY'D YOU  
DEROBOTICIZE  
ALL OF THE  
ROBIANS  
EXCEPT FOR  
MY DAD?!

IS THAT HOW YOU  
GET YOUR KICKS NOW,  
YA BIG JERK?

DON'T BE **STUPID**! WHAT MAKES  
YOU **THINK** I CHANGED ANY OF  
THEM **BACK** IN THE FIRST PLACE?

ONE OF THE FEW **THINGS** IN  
LIFE THAT MADE ME **HAPPY** WAS  
KNOWING THAT I'D **TURNED** YOUR WHOLE  
FAMILY INTO OIL DRUMS WITH EYEBROWS. MEH...

HE  
**DENIED** DOING  
ANY OF IT,  
AND IT'S  
**WEIRD**, BUT I  
KINDA  
**BELIEVE**  
HIM!

I WON'T STOP  
WORKING **UNTIL**  
I'VE FOUND A CURE,  
JULES,

NO, CHARLES,  
I CAN'T **STAND** THE  
WAY YOU'VE BEEN  
PUSHING YOURSELF  
**LATELY**.

--WHY SHOULD NOW BE  
ANY DIFFERENT BECAUSE  
**I STILL AM?**

INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON  
THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T **CHANGED**,  
HOW ABOUT CELEBRATING THE  
FACT THAT EVERYONE **ELSE** HAS?

--BUT I'LL  
FIND OUT WHO  
DID THIS, I  
**SWEAR!**

I REALIZED THAT  
WHEN WE WERE **ALL**  
ROBOTICIZED, WE WERE  
**HAPPIER--**

DAD'S **RIGHT**.  
NO MATTER WHAT  
**HAPPENS**, WE'LL FACE  
THE FUTURE TOGETHER  
AS A **FAMILY--**

**THE END?**